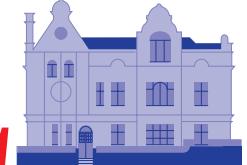


OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

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60P WHERE SOLD



FRESH TWIST IN SCHOOL BUS ROW

Report by Naomi Penrose

POWYS County Council knew Llanfyllin High School was planning to wrongly spend money bussing in pupils from outside its catchment area three years before any action was taken, it has been claimed this week.

Minutes from a Powys Schools Forum meeting from January 2013 appear to show the council was aware the school was planning to use its delegated budget to provide home to school transport for out of county pupils, including from Oswestry, to "support post-16 collaborative working".

The fresh twist in the funding row comes after the school was told to pay back £17,000 – half of the cost of the subsidised transport it will provide for out-of-catchment pupils from April to September – to the county council last month following an investigation. The Powys School Forum minutes have been shared on Twitter by Llanfyllin resident Dave Weston. The minutes show that present at the meeting were cabinet member for finance Councillor Wynne Jones – who at the time was chairman of scrutiny – cabinet member for finance at the time Councillor Dai Davies, and former portfolio holder for learning and leisure Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, as well as council officers.

On seeing the tweet doing the rounds this week, Councillor Alexander replied: "I have always maintained that it was no secret – I had a paper for cabinet about it."

And Llanfyllin's County Councillor Peter Lewis, also a governor at the school, said: "This shows what we have been saying all along, that this wasn't hidden and Powys were aware of it, and shows proof of who was there and aware."

It was revealed in March that auditors discovered the school had broken rules to spend £500,000 to bus pupils to lessons. Although the move goes against a policy introduced by Powys County Council in 2008, school governors and councillors have maintained the local authority were aware of what was going on. An emergency meeting of Friends of Llanfyllin High School will take place tonight (Thursday) at 7pm at the school for parents directly affected by the withdrawal of the bus fare subsidy and all other parents who are concerned by the effect on the school budget. In response to the latest developments, Councillor Barry Thomas, leader of Powys County Council, said: "An independently led review is already under way into the circumstances of Llanfyllin High School's use of delegated school funds to subsidise home to school transport since 2011 and a report will be considered by the cabinet in due course. No further comment can be made until the review and any possible proceedings are complete."

• What are your views? Email your opinions to news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

HEALTH

New appointment will help hospital tackle waiting times

AN improvement director has been appointed to offer support to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital as it works to improve waiting times for patients.

Phil Orwin will spend one day a week at the world renowned hospital with a brief to provide assurance on the improvement work being carried out. He began his duties last week.

Mr Orwin's appointment follows action taken by NHS Improvement earlier this year when it published the findings of an investigation into the reporting of referral to treatment times and wider issues around waiting times at the hospital.

That came after NHS regulator Monitor launched an investigation into the trust last summer amid concerns too many patients were waiting longer than the 18-week national target for treatment.

Mark Brandreth, chief executive at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, said: "We are committed to delivering significant and rapid improvement in the length of time our patients have to wait to access our services.

"We have put an extensive action plan in place and are grateful for the support we have received from external partners, including NHS Improvement. We welcome Phil's appointment and look forward to working with him to make the most of his considerable experience."

• Cut – See Page 2

CRIME

Safety is the focus of police meeting

A COMMUNITY safety day will be held by the Welsop Neighbourhood Policing Team on Tuesday to allow people to raise concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

The event follows a similar initiative last year which was well attended by a number of agencies.

This year's event will be held at the town hall between 10am and 3pm.

Agencies including Kaleidoscope, Youth Service, Gwalia, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, Trading Standards and Ponthafren will be attending to show what services they offer to the community.

INSIDE

Invaders attack village's castle



PAGE 30

Jubilant Saints make it a historic double treble



The New Saints celebrate their Welsh Cup Final success and securing their second domestic treble in a row. Photo: The New Saints.

IT was celebration time for history-makers The New Saints on Monday after they completed a clean sweep of domestic trophies for the second time.

The New Saints enjoyed another trophy laden season by lifting the Welsh Cup with victory over Airbus UK in the final at Wrexham's Glyndwr University Stadium.

A crowd of more than 1,400 people saw the Saints land the trophy for a third successive season.

Goals in each half from Ryan Brobbel and Scott Quigley sealed the Welsh Cup for the Park Hall-based side.

By lifting the Welsh Cup, the Saints also became the first Welsh Premier side to make it back-to-back trebles.

The New Saints had already sealed the Word Cup and the league earlier in the season.

The jubilant players were delighted to celebrate their unique double treble in the dressing rooms after the game.

Man of the match Ryan Brobbel, who scored the first goal, was delighted to be part of the ongoing TNS success story after joining the club this season.

"It's very special for me to win the Welsh Cup, and to score in the final makes it extra special," he said.

"Airbus made it hard for us in the first half.

"They came with a game plan to stop us playing out which worked for the first 25 minutes."

"But importantly we got the goal, and once

we scored the second it put us in good stead," he added.

The New Saints boss Craig Harrison said he

was delighted to secure famous back-to-back Welsh domestic trebles. "I'm very proud to win the treble for a second season, the lads

over the past five years here have been fantastic," he said.

"But we're hungry to win more trophies, we want to win every game and our target now is to try make it a treble treble next season." Victory for the Saints means that third placed Llandudno automatically qualify for Europe in their first season in the league, while Airbus now visit Newtown in the play-off semi-finals on Saturday for the remaining Europa League spot.

• Cut – See Page 39

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Hospital reports huge cut in patients waiting one year

Report by Naomi Penrose

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital currently has only one patient from England who has been waiting more than a year for surgery – compared to last November's total of 28 patients.

It was reported at last week's board of directors meeting that the trust only has one English patient who has been waiting more than 52 weeks for surgery – a stark drop from last November's figure.

Kim Barrow, director of operations, said the patient who has been waiting more than a year was a "complex case" that required an "exceptional level of planning".

"We're delighted to say that we now only have one patient from England who has been waiting over 52 weeks for surgery."

"This is a particularly complex case that will require significant time in theatre," she said.

"We are committed to offering the highest quality and safest treatment to our patients."

"In order to do this in this one particular case, there will need to be an exceptional level of planning."

"The patient in this case is fully involved in the planning of their surgery. The team at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust ensures the patient is the heart of all we do, each time and every time."

Ms Barrow described the trust's progress as "terrific". She added: "To make the progress we have in such a short space of time is terrific."

"Great thanks and recognition must go to our staff, whose discretionary effort, team work, dedication to the hospital and commitment to our patients has made this possible."

Hospitals can be fined £5,000 per patient per week for any waits longer than a year.

The orthopaedic has budgeted £200,000 for penalties relating to the long-waiting patients. The improvements follow action taken by NHS Improvement earlier this year when it published the findings of an investigation into the reporting of referral to treatment times and wider issues around waiting times at the hospital.

That came after NHS regulator Monitor launched an investigation into the trust last summer.

Volunteers rounded up for walking challenge



Annie Kerr, committee member for the Oswestry Round walk, and author Dave Andrews, on a section of the walk

RUN or walk, a new challenge has been launched in which people can combine visiting the countryside with raising money for charity.

The Oswestry Round Challenge is a new 33-mile walk or run event which the organisers plan to make an annual challenge.

It follows a route which forms a circuit around the town of Oswestry.

The challenge, which will be held for the first time on June 11 and 12, is a charity event for the benefit of Cancer Research UK and the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

It is based on the book The Oswestry Round written by local author Dave An-

drews. With photographs by his wife Jane Trudgill, the book was published shortly before Christmas and has already sold more than 500 copies and raised more than £3,000 for charity.

"Jane and I were really keen to repay the wonderful staff at the Lingen Davies Centre where I was treated for prostate cancer in 2014," the author, who has written a number of guides to the mountains of Wales and has contributed articles on mountaineering to various publications in English and Welsh, said.

"I revived an idea for a book which first occurred to me about eight years ago. Oswestry is in a pretty unique position,

having the hill country of Wales to the west and the lower land of Shropshire to the east.

"Jane and I have been living in the area for over 20 years and know the lie of the land well. It was fun to devise a circular route."

"I presented the idea to the Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club and they took it up with great enthusiasm."

"Now we want to push on with an annual walking event to raise even more money."

People can find more information about the Oswestry Round Challenge and about Dave Andrews's book at www.oswestry-round.co.uk where they can also register for the challenge.

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Inquest told Harry died of injuries

OSWESTRY backpacker Harry Greaves died of multiple severe multiple injuries in the Peruvian Andes, an inquest heard.

The injuries were discovered during post mortems carried out in Peru after Harry's body was found at the bottom of a 40-metre cliff on April 19 and also at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after his body was repatriated back to the UK.

The details were revealed yesterday (Wednesday) at Harry's inquest at Shirehall in Shrewsbury, where proceedings were opened and adjourned.

John Ellery, coroner for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, heard that Harry was last seen alive on April 7 when he set out on a mountain hike, two days before his 29th birthday.

The hearing was told Harry, of Norman Road in Wrexham and previously of Bronygarth, near Oswestry, had flown to Peru on February 20.

Kerry Ann Badham, coroner's officer, said that Harry had set off alone on a three-day mountain trek. When he failed to return his friends became concerned and a major search of the area was launched.

"A tent was found and then his body was found at the bottom of a 40 metre cliff in the Andes mountain range," said Ms Badham.

The inquest was adjourned to July 26 and will be heard at Shrewsbury's Shirehall.

Talks looking at services' future

A SPECIAL meeting of Oswestry Town Council was due to take place last night (Wednesday) to find out more about the potential of taking on Shropshire Council services.

Oswestry town councillors were due to hear a report on the beginning of discussions with the local authority and their redesign of services to match their budget.

Last month town and parish councils and community groups were told they had five months to come up with suitable agreements to manage or fund at-risk services, as Shropshire Council is looking to save £61 million from its budget by 2018/19.

Leisure centre and swimming pool providers are also likely to be asked to reduce the amount it costs to run the facilities to keep them open.

Those facing potential closure include the county's libraries.

Poor state of repair of street 'cheapens town'

Report by Naomi Penrose

A PROBLEM street blighted by empty shops and "its terrible state of disrepair" cheapens Oswestry, a business chief has claimed.

Neil Jenkins, chair of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, criticised the poor state of Cross Street after a lump of concrete fell from the roof of the Sports Direct shop.

Mr Jenkins said footfall in the Cross Street area of the town was affected by its appearance and lack of shops.

"A lot of work would need to be carried out there, and if that puts off prospective tenants, then surely that actually affects the landlord in the long term, as tenants don't want to take them on," he said.

"It's a shame because that cuts the foot traffic through the town because it's not a very attractive area of town."

The block of concrete came down on last month and pictures were shared by residents on Facebook and Twitter.

Mr Jenkins also said he was doubtful anything could be done about the general state of buildings without a change of legislation.

For a number of years Cross Street has been a major concern among councillors and residents, due to its empty shops.

Last year Councillor John Gareth Jones contacted the property agents marketing the large, empty shop units in Cross Street.

He said the state of the empty shops was doing nothing for the image of the town.

Following the incident, a request for a structural survey was sent by Oswestry Town Council to Shropshire Council.

Meanwhile the chamber of commerce has taken part in talks to explore potential steps towards making Oswestry a Business Improvement District (BID).

Mr Jenkins said: "We were pleased to be invited to take part in these early stage discussions and are in the process of considering the matters discussed."

"With any project of this size and significance, we must tread carefully to ensure all affected parties have access to accurate information and are given the chance to be involved as matters progress. "As a chamber of commerce, we will be keeping a close eye on developments and will seek the input and opinion of our members as and when the opportunities arise."

New sight support group is launched



Oswestry resident Monica Jones and Macular Society regional manager Amanda Read with members of the group

sight loss in the UK, affecting more than 600,000 people.

More people are affected as the population ages.

Amanda Read, Macular Society regional manager, said: "This new group is here for anybody affected by macular degeneration, we want to encourage people to come along."

"Friends and family are also very welcome."

"It's good to be able to learn from each other's experiences and get tips."

"The peer support can be so helpful."

"Our groups can really help peo-

ple increase in confidence and become more independent."

"The group will invite guest speakers on a variety of subjects, including macular conditions and their impact on our daily lives."

"The meetings are also social occasions where we can chat over a cup of tea."

The new Oswestry group meets in The Qube in Oswald Road.

The group meets on the third Friday of the month.

For more information about the group people can contact 0300 3030111 or email help@macularsociety.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorist damaged car park barrier

A VAN driver who thought he was trapped in a public car park caused more than £1,000 worth of damage by forcibly lifting a barrier to get out.

Mark Bowen, 46, of Western Avenue, Whittington, admitted damaging the gearbox of the electronically-controlled at the exit to the Ffirth Beach Complex in Prestatyn on July 15.

He had initially denied the offence but changed his plea on the basis that it was a reckless rather than a deliberate act. At Prestatyn Magistrates Court he was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1,040 in compensation, costs of £300 and a £15 surcharge.

Prosecutor John Wyld said there was no other vehicle in the car park and no one around, so it was understandable that the defendant believed that the barrier was not operational.

Theft accused fails to attend court

A WOMAN accused of stealing £13,000 from Co-op in Oswestry has failed to appear in court.

Joanne Ellis, 39, of Victoria Close, Oswestry, had been due to appear at Telford Magistrates Court on Tuesday. She is accused of taking the cash between January 2014 and October last year, when she was an employee of the supermarket.

Her solicitor, Stephen Scully, said she had been unable to attend court as she was suffering from "severe stress and anxiety".

Magistrates adjourned the case for a week to obtain a full medical update on her health.

She was bailed to appear at court on Tuesday.

Fundraiser will help out church

A COFFEE morning and spring fair will be held in the Church House in Welshpool on Saturday from 9.30am to raise money for Trelystan Church. There will be a number of stalls.

The following Saturday on May 14 will see an evening with popular entertainer Alan Herbert at Marton Village Hall. Tickets are £10 including supper and are available in advance from Welshpool Jewellers, Flaunt It Card Shop, Horse Shoe Inn at Ardle, Chris Jarman, Laura Yapp or church officials.

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Ringleader of kidnap gang given 12 years prison term

Report by Andrew Morris

THE ringleader of a gang that kidnapped a businessman on the Powys/Shropshire border has been jailed for 12 years.

The victim had been kidnapped by three bogus police officers in a car with blue flashing lights after his movements were tracked for the previous few months, a court heard.

Nathan Parry, 37, of Jack's Wood, Ellesmere Port, described by the judge as the lead member of the kidnap gang and "brains" behind the offence, was jailed for 12 years yesterday. He had been found guilty by a Caernarfon Crown Court jury of the kidnap, false imprisonment and blackmail of the man who lives in the Four Crosses/Llanymynech area, near Oswestry.

Andrew Ballantyne, 36, of a caravan park at Rough Hill, Chester, and David Staff, 34, of Leaside Road, Chester, were said to have been "willing lieutenants" and were both locked up for seven-and-a-half years after admitting the offences.

Carl Nicholas, 33, of Coed Aben, Wrexham, was jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to witness intimidation by warning the victim he and his family would be "taken out".

Natalie Goode, 33, of Willow Road, Lache, Chester, was cleared of kidnapping and false imprisonment but convicted of blackmail. She was accused of collecting a ransom of at least £11,000, possibly almost £20,000, from the man's mother.

Imposing an 18 month suspended prison term with 250 hours unpaid work, Judge Philip Harris-Jenkins told her: "You fall in a wholly different category. Your role was minor. You were following orders."

Prosecutor John Philpotts had told the jury they might think the events of September 2 "sound rather like the plot of a television police drama."

But the case involved "real people and real fear."

The victim had, the court heard, been warned that his kidnappers wanted cash or he would be killed with a heroin injection.

Mr Philpotts said he was taken to a caravan park on the outskirts of Chester during a four-hour ordeal.

Defence barrister Gareth Roberts, for Parry, said the victim was perhaps someone who "sailed close to the wind."

But Judge Harris-Jenkins said the man had no convictions.

The prosecution said drugs found attached to his vehicle had been "planted" and the judge said it perhaps "emphasises the level of sophistication and planning" that went into what happened, to discredit the victim.

He told the kidnappers: "He thought he was going to die at your hands."

Tributes to cricket pioneer



Dick and Nita Wildgoose and Gerry and Fred Wildgoose at Buckingham Palace

TRIBUTES have been paid to a retired cricketing stalwart who co-founded a pioneering group to ensure people could still play the sport despite having a disability.

Fred Wildgoose, from Gobowen, died during the early hours of Thursday morning last week at the age of 80 after a long illness.

Mr Wildgoose and his twin brother Dick have been highly respected across the local area and wider afield for devoting practically all of their spare time to cricket for the disabled, and their organisation – the Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities – which had run matches at top grounds such as Lord's, and even organised a tour to India.

The brothers launched their disabled cricket programme in 1989.

Their Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities was royally recognised in 2006 as it was chosen as a winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The brothers and their wives Gerry, who was married to Fred, and Dick's wife Nita, went to Buckingham Palace for the royal reception.

In 2011 they were once again recognised for their voluntary work when they received an Outstanding Service to Cricket Award (OSCA) at a special ceremony at Lord's.

Mr Wildgoose leaves behind wife Gerry, son David and his wife Joanne, grandson Luke, and brother Dick and his wife Nita.

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Residents concerned about latest factory incident

Report by Naomi Penrose

DUST and wood fibres were thrown into the air from the Kronospan factory in Chirk after a malfunction occurred at the site, residents have claimed.

People living in Chirk have spoken out after an incident at the factory caused fibres and dust to billow through the town, sparking fears for public safety.

Officials at the factory have confirmed there was a "process incident" on Thursday afternoon last week but have insisted safety measures prevented any pollution.

The factory, which makes Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), has been a cause for concern for residents and councillors for over 20 years. Last year the firm pledged to complete a scheme to enclose the area in which recycled wood fibres are unloaded and stockpiled.

But anger has heightened following the latest issue.

It happened a day after 25 members of the public attended a meeting of Chirk Town Council, where they said that microscopic airborne particles from the factory's chimney stacks were a problem, along with fumes from the manufacturing of formaldehyde. A public meeting is to be held this month into the issue.

Nick Williams, 42, from Chirk, said: "This environmental issue admitted MDF raw fibre into the atmosphere in Chirk but also carried over the border into St Martins and Shropshire. People are worried about their kids being outside. It's a real fear."

Councillor Terry Evans, who represents Chirk on Wrexham County Borough Council, said he witnessed the dust blowing out of the factory first hand, which he said lasted about 20 minutes.

He said: "This is something we've been fighting for around 20 years now but I believe it's worsened since they had the biomass plant passed in 2014. Since then they've been fetching more rubbish wood into the plant, and it's created a dusty atmosphere."

The move to Mid Wales reflects the fact that Greenfingers recently won a £3 million four-year contract to provide grounds maintenance for Powys County Council.

Steve Higginbottom, managing director of Greenfingers, said: "This is a very significant step for Greenfingers. The acquisition of the P&W contracts has enabled us to expand into a new geographical area and open another depot at Llandrindod Wells to service the work in addition to the Powys contract. This means that not only can we provide employment for the P&W staff, but we can also open up possibilities to create further employment opportunities in the area."

DOZENS of jobs have been saved after a takeover deal was agreed for a collapsed Shropshire company's assets.

Crewe-based Greenfingers Landscape Limited has acquired the contracts of former Oswestry landscaping and ground maintenance company P&W Maintenance Contracting, which fell into liquidation last year owing £1.7 million. The company says the move will save about 45 jobs from the Oswestry company, although it will not be retaining a handful of office staff because it is opening a new operation in Llandrindod Wells to service the work. On-the-ground staff who delivered the contracts for P&W, which entered liquidation in November, will transfer to the new company and continue their work delivering services across Shropshire and Mid Wales.

The move to Mid Wales reflects the fact that Greenfingers recently won a £3 million four-year contract to provide grounds maintenance for Powys County Council.

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Sweet victory for Gillian



Gillian Sturgess from Chimes Cakes in West Felton with her award-winning creation Show held at NEC in Birmingham, beating off opposition from around the world.

"It took about three weeks on and off to make the cake," said Gillian, who came to the art of sugar craft as a complete beginner and trained herself through reading books and magazines. "There was a lot of planning and scaling it up to make sure it looked right." With its marbled columns, white clock face and scale model interior workings the cake would not be out of place on a Regency mantelpiece. "I have made all sorts of cakes," said Gillian, 47, from West Felton, near Oswestry, who runs Chimes Cakes. "I started off making birthday cakes but as they became more elaborate I specialised in wedding cakes and cakes for competitions and shows.

Now she makes cakes shaped as spoons for Uri Geller, tea cups and violins out of sugar paste and fruit cake along with beautifully decorated wedding cakes some of which are handpainted and have intricate flowers and foliage on them.

Her latest design, a large mantle clock scooped top prize at the Cake International

County Durham the Land of the Prince Bishops

County Durham is unique, as for many centuries it was a virtually independent state ruled not by the king, but by powerful 'Prince Bishops', who were more or less the 'Kings of County Durham'. Northumberland boasts an infinite variety of landscape from desolate moors to rugged hills as well as eight miles of coastline, two-thirds of which has been designated an area of outstanding beauty,

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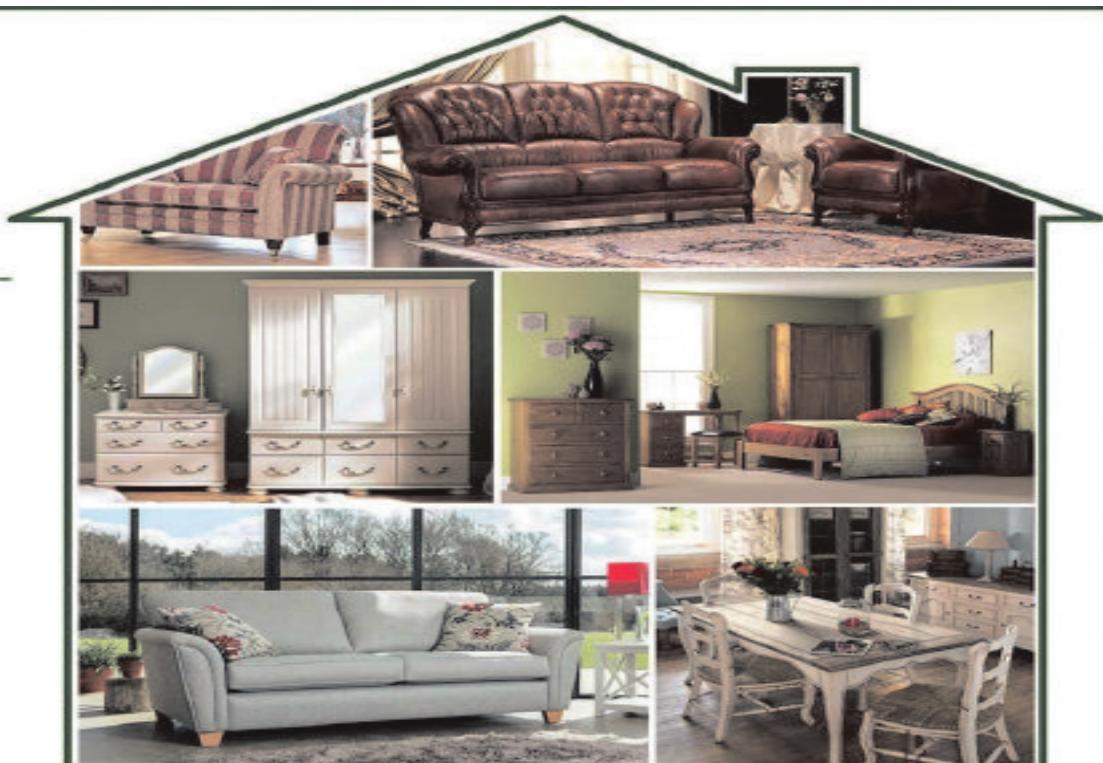
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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

The big question of the week is whether Oswestry's monthly, and once thriving, farmers' market can survive.

The market is to move from its traditional spot on Bailey Head onto Bailey Street in a move to attract more trade. The question facing town councillors and traders is whether a drop in trade is a blip, or simply a sign of the times.

All across the country outdoor markets are in decline and none more than on the Powys border at Oswestry and Welshpool. In 1999 there were 100 traders clambering for a stall on the famous Bailey Head. Now barely 20 traders risk the elements to sell their goods.

The indoor market seems to be booming though, just as it does 15 miles down the road at Welshpool where the town hall houses a six days per week market.

There's a waiting list for stalls, though the range of goods on offer has changed dramatically.

Where once you could buy the traditional meat, fish and vegetables the focus has switched to books and crafts and while the indoor trade flourishes the once packed street market has all but disappeared, with only a couple of hardy traders braving the elements last week.

The world of market trading has changed dramatically over the last decade with the arrival of discount stores and giant supermarkets tempting customers away and offering the chance to shop on-line or in the warmth of well heated stores. Can you remember a recent Friday when you felt it warm or dry enough to venture out for a bit of open-air shopping? I can't.

The news agenda has been dominated by the remarkable achievements of Leicester City Football Club this week. It's really been hard to ignore the fairytale story of the 'Davids' of the East Midlands taking on and slaying the 'giants' of the Premiership – arguably the best football league in the world. And Monday's unbelievable scenes when the unimaginable dream finally became reality made for priceless TV viewing.

Closer to home there was another football occasion to celebrate when the Oswestry-based The New Saints won the Welsh Cup on Monday to make it another treble year.

Club owner Mike Harris was unusually dapper and well received in the televised build-up to the match at The Racecourse in Wrexham but later images publicised on social media sites revealed that a Champagne drenching left the businessman looking a little less comfortable. But he did have a lot to celebrate, including enough European qualifying cash to guarantee another successful season next year.



An exhibition at Powis Castle is telling the story of young Welsh Guard Percy Clive



Viscount Clive (seated, centre) in 1911 with Eton College football team



Gareth Sandham with some of the items on display at the castle's war-time exhibition

WORKING FOR YOU

One of the most difficult issues I've faced since being elected an MP has been how to react to the many tragedies resulting from the conflict in and around Syria. The number of innocent people who have and are suffering is beyond comprehension. There are over 10 million displaced Syrians. There has been mass murder by poison gas. Tens of thousands are being starved to death by siege tactics in Syria itself. Over two million are in refugee camps in Jordan alone. More millions are in Turkish and Lebanese camps. Increasing numbers are being tempted into the grasping, murderous hands of people traffickers, who send them out on perilous journeys over the Mediterranean in rickety boats with false promises and likelihood of death. There are tragedies on a scale which makes it difficult for an MP to know where the UK should focus its humanitarian effort.

It's against this background that the Government is facing demands to allow thousands of refugee children currently in France and other EU countries to be allowed into the UK. So far the Government has resisted these demands for two important reasons. Firstly, there is the fear that allowing freedom for refugees to enter the UK will inadvertently make the promises of the evil people traffickers more attractive. The numbers of innocents being drowned in the Med is increasing.

A second reason is the inevitable transfer of humanitarian focus away from the conflict in and around Syria if the UK makes a commitment to France, which is after all as modern compassionate an EU state as the UK.

There is already in place, and operating, the 'Dublin Regulation' which operates under the United Nations Humanitarian Refugee Commission, established to consider applications to unite families. However we resolve to provide UK help, I hope we don't forget the millions of displaced refugees (including children) we are not allowed to see.

It's very difficult to know what is the most humanitarian approach in such terrible circumstances. All we do know is that the UK is focused on helping the millions of refugees in the camps. The UK has invested more humanitarian aid than every other European country put together.

We are trying to create work in the camps so that refugees will be able to rebuild if and when the conflict is over. There are the tragedies we see (where we are allowed to) and the tragedies we don't see. It's my job to decide how best we can bring hope and humanitarian care to helpless innocents. It's not what MPs should do. It's what we must do.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

Letters from the trenches bring home horror of war

A Powis Castle exhibition remembers a war-time tragedy. SALLY WILLIAMS finds out more

THE horror experienced by local soldiers who were battling for their lives and country through mud-strewn World War One trenches is being brought to life at Powis Castle, with heartfelt letters and telegrams sent home from its own young tragic Welsh Guard – Percy Clive.

Powis Castle in Welshpool is revealing the sad story of Percy Herbert – the eldest son of Viscount Clive, 4th Earl of Powis – who died aged just 23 in the Battle of the Somme.

Gareth Sandham, Powis Castle's house and collections manager, said: "From diary entries made by the Countess of Powis, Percy Clive's mother and other sources, we have pieced together his tragic story on the battlefield and the emotions of his family who remained at home, worlds away from the front line, to commemorate the centenary of the battle of the Somme.

"By recreating a section of a World War One trench, we hope to immerse visitors in the story, bringing to life the turmoil experienced by Percy Clive and other soldiers at the time."

Mr Sandham said Percy was born into a life of wealth and privilege and as he approached his 21st year, it would have seemed that the world had been his oyster.

Mr Sandham said: "A new heir brought fresh hope to the estates: there were huge celebrations across the family lands



The exhibition at Powis Castle recreates war-time life

in Powys and Shropshire at the time of his birth, although his coming-of-age revelries were curtailed by the outbreak of war on August 4, 1914."

And he said Percy, like so many other local and brave soldiers, was cut down in his prime.

"Clive had joined the newly-formed Welsh Guards in 1915 and served as an officer in the war," he said.

"He was involved in heavy fighting in the second battle of Ypres and later in the Somme offensive at Flers-Courcelette, where he was seriously injured, brought back to hospital in London but later died."

In the early 20th century the 4th Earl of Powis and his wife Lady Violet redecorated much of the castle and brought the garden back to life, introducing new varieties of flowers and plants from all over the world – but their life of luxury

changed rapidly after war was declared.

Violet, Countess of Powis wrote in her 1913-14 journal "... the long, dreaded European war is upon us at last ... Farewell to the old life of luxury – ease and comfort ... The Angel of destruction is let loose."

She added: "On Wednesday ... a telegram came [and summoned Clive] to guard the arsenal against the Germans. He hurried off...[and] wrote that he sleeps 'in a policeman's bed and has flies for tea'."

And The Great War was brought even more painfully close to home a few years later, when she wrote in her journal: "Clive was wounded in the right thigh by a bullet. He contrived to roll into a disused German trench, where he lay for many weary hours ... all his telegrams, postcards and letters told us he was 'all right', 'not to worry' ... and in

no pain" ... 'With luck he would be back in the spring for the march to Berlin'."

But Clive would never march to Berlin and died shortly afterwards.

His death was the first of a sequence of family tragedies that led to the castle passing into the care of the National Trust in 1952.

The war had begun for Viscount Clive in October 1914, when he was shipped out to Zeebrugge as part of the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Guards in the 7th Division. Two weeks later at Ypres the 1,000 strong 2nd Battalion lost over half their number during just one night of fighting.

Mr Sandham said: "As they step into the replica Somme trench and officers' dug-out, visitors will be transported back to life in WWI through period newsreels, battlefield objects and replica food packaging. They will get a sense of what it was to live as a soldier on the front line.

"The Somme offensive began on July 1, 1916 and the Welsh Guards arrived on August 9. During the battle of Flers-Courcelette, Viscount Clive was injured by a machine gun bullet in the leg. It took Clive a few days to travel from the front line to the hospital in Rouen. From the hospital in Rouen, Clive was sent home labelled 'Urgent' and treated at King Edward VII hospital in Grosvenor Square, London. His leg was badly broken and the bullet had not been removed."

Visitors to the castle can experience the war through the eyes of Percy until September 30. Families will be able to dress as traditional WWI nurses and soldiers, take part in themed quizzes across the property and even train as a soldier on an assault course on the castle's Great Lawn.

They will also be able to wander through passages made of sandbags, corrugated metal sheets and wooden supports, with period items scattered throughout, as if the soldiers are still making use of the trenches.

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Letters

Sugar tax is no answer to obesity

JAMIE Oliver may be delighted that George Osborne has put a new tax on sugary soft drinks, but it's only closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

It makes not one iota of difference to other sweets and foods.

They which packed to the rafters with sugar but about which nothing is apparently going to be done.

I remember as a child eating all sorts of foods which health and safety say are detrimental to my health.

Who remembers putting piles of beef dripping on their toast, and despite the fact that it was already full of salt, topping it up

with even more? The drinks firms are doing their utmost already to lower the amounts of sugar they use.

This tax will have little or no effect on the majority of children who are encouraged to fill their faces with chips and other fat-filled foods.

So sugar, as far as I can see, has little or no effect on tackling the major obesity problem.

This problem has been growing quicker over the last few generations.

It's all well and good banning or taxing things Jamie.

But as a child I remember being given a

shilling, 5p, to buy my school meals. More often than not half of it would go on either chips and peas, or chips and beans and the other half went on sweets.

Despite this I am the correct weight for my age and height.

My cholesterol levels are low. I still have all my own teeth thanks to the fact that I regularly brush them.

I also get plenty of exercise.

That is something others of my age group or younger could do to lessen this obesity problem.

MARTIN EDDIES
Shrewsbury

Trade will still carry on even if we decide to leave the EU

IN my opinion Dithering Dave achieved nothing in his talks with the EU about reforms.

There were promises that will not mean anything when the other members decide they are not in their best interests. Strange how I read all the benefits of staying in the EU. If the figures being quoted show how better off we are staying, then why are not the other members so well off in the EU? Why are over a quarter of a million coming here each year? Cameron's agreement will not stem this flow.

We export less to the EU than they do to us, therefore there is a trade deficit. Do people really believe they will put trade tariffs on? No, they still want to sell us stuff. If trade tariffs are put on then we reciprocate. It was going to be a disaster if we left the ERM – it turned to be the best thing we could have done. Disaster was supposed to happen when we did not join the euro, again the best thing we could have done; one of 'Uncle Clown Brown's' best moves.

We will still trade with the rest of the world, we will not be ruled by bureaucrats. Of course, a lot of industry will want to stay and a lot will want a lot of immigration keep the wage costs down. It will still be in every country's interest to co-operate on crime and terrorism, and it is Nato that has kept the peace in the world not the EU. I hope people will read more to enable them to make their own minds up and question everything they read.

DAVE BARNETT

Arleston

God's plan is working out

WHAT a world we are living in, as we see those floods of refugees fleeing, drowning, cold and starving, how they must long for a place of peace.

In spite of all our scientific advances there are wars going on all over the world.

Men don't seem to be able to live for more than five minutes without fighting.

Some will scornfully cry: "where is your God of love in all this suffering?"

Well, the good news is that one day peace is going to break out all over this war-torn Earth.

Yes one day God is going to step in and say: "You have done it your way long enough".

God did not want robots so He entrusted us with our free will, and look what a mess our selfishness has made of this wonderful planet.

But God's plan has been working out.

According to most Bible scholars the next act will be the disappearance in the blink of an eye of all God's children, and He knows the genuine ones.

Then there will be seven years of Tribulation before the return of Jesus Christ heralds the longed for era of peace and paradise on earth.

RON JONES
St Martins
Oswestry

<img alt="Advertisement for Truedor Composite Doors. It features a red door, a blue door, and a green door. Text includes 'COMPOSITE DOORS', 'SPECIAL OFFER ANY DOOR BELOW PROFESSIONALLY FITTED', '(INCLUDES MASTICS, TRIMS & BEADS)', 'FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES', and '£599 inc VAT'. It also shows 'DOOR COLOUR OPTIONS BELOW' and 'DOOR STYLE OPTIONS BELOW' with various door styles like 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 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The Temple at Temple Garth, Bronygarth, near Oswestry was intended to be a half scale replica of Stonehenge



Temple Garth enjoys a peaceful rural location



Temple Garth is a handsome period property with a detached coach house and annexe set in 13 acres of pastureland

It's Smallhenge!

IT'S not every day that you come across a property with its own temple in the grounds, which was once described as "one of the most eccentric park structures in Shropshire".

But that's exactly what's on offer with Oswestry estate agents Halls. The Temple at Temple Garth, Bronygarth, near Oswestry was built as a folly for the owner of The Quinta Estate in around 1850 with limestone blocks quarried from Llanymynech. Intended to be a half scale

The asking price of £750,000 for Temple

The asking price of £750,000 for Temple Garth excludes both the Temple and Temple Wood, which extend to around 11 acres, but they are available by separate negotiation with a guide price of £100,000.

Temple Garth is a handsome period property with a detached coach house and annexe set in

With a detached coach house and annexe set in 13 acres of pastureland and mixed woodland in a beautiful rural location, two miles from the A483/A5 trunk road.

- the property's ground floor accommodation, which comprises an elegant reception hall and

sitting room, drawing room, dining room with French doors to a terrace, fitted kitchen-breakfast room with a Rayburn and part vaulted ceiling, butler's pantry, larder, cellar, cloakroom, WC, rear entrance hall/ bootroom, and study/library.

On the first floor there are five bedrooms, each with wardrobes, two bathrooms and a ladder access to an attic room.

The detached Coach House has a double garage, garden room and reception hall on the ground floor with an upstairs annexe which has an en-suite shower room and double doors to a Juliette balcony.

Viewing is by appointment with Halls' Oswestry office on (01691) 670320.

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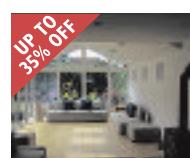
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An advertisement for Listers Furniture & Interiors featuring four photographs of interior rooms. The top left photo shows a living room with a purple sofa, a grey cabinet, and a wooden coffee table. The top right photo shows a living room with a brown sofa, a wooden cabinet, and a large orange-framed mirror. The bottom left photo shows a room with a white shelving unit filled with decorative items. The bottom right photo shows a bedroom with a wooden bed frame, a green patterned headboard, and a wooden dresser.

The Village, Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PU

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www.listersinteriors.com

Rotary club marks its first birthday

A NEW rotary club has celebrated its first birthday.

Oswestry Cambrian Rotarians, partners and friends celebrated the day at the Wynnstay Hotel.

The newest of the town's three rotary clubs was formed on April 23 last year and organisers say it has gone from strength to strength since.

They say all three clubs are thriving and all three are different which gives people a choice of the style of rotary club they may want to join.

President Mike Lade said: "This new style of club has ditched the traditions of the vast majority of rotary clubs and almost thrown away the rule book."

"Yes, we still have the constitution that acts as a framework to act within but that is as far as it goes for our club. No regular weekly attendance required. No expensive meals for members every week. Relaxed dress code."

"Members don't even need to buy a drink as we have water on the table. This is making our club much more attractive to a younger body of people so we have a much younger average age of about 35-40 rather than the 70 year old national average."

Woman injured in A5 road crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital following a collision between two lorries and a car on the A5.

The accident happened at about 4.45pm on Friday last week near the Chirk bypass. The woman was taken to Wrexham Maelor Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Motorists faced long delays in both directions as the road was closed between the Halton and Gledrid roundabouts.

Although E M Hughes Auto Centre has always bought and sold cars they added Welsh Walls Car Sales to the business in 2009 when they expanded. Mike's son David has worked in the garage since leaving school 23 years ago.

The business is an official MOT testing station and is able to test vehicles from class one to class seven, including motorbikes, motor caravans, quads up to 400kg, mini buses up to 16 passenger seats and vans up to 3,500kg.

Mike Hughes first opened the garage in Willow Street in 1983 with his wife Lynn,

before moving to a larger premises in Middleton Road in 1988 and finally to Welsh Walls in 1994. E M Hughes Auto Centre

carry out all types of work and repairs on all makes and models of vehicles, from fitting tyres, servicing, timing belts, diagnostics, air conditioning, exhausts, clutch replacements and much more. The firm offers dealer level diagnostics for VAG, Renault, Peugeot, Citroen, Land Rover, Volvo, Jaguar, Mercedes and BMW.

The team from E M Hughes Auto Centre, based at Welsh Walls in Oswestry

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THE last of a town's spring craft fairs will be held in the coming weeks.

It will take place on May 14 in the Corn Exchange of Welshpool Town Hall.

Stalls will include handmade greeting cards, driftwood crafts, jewellery and textiles.

The fair, organised by Welshpool Town Council, will be open from 9am until 4pm.

Admission is free and tea and coffee

will also be served at a cost in aid of the Lingen Davies Cancer Relief Fund.

For more information contact the town clerk's office by calling (01938) 553142 or emailing town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Tenants asked to enter competition**

COUNCIL tenants across Powys are being urged to showcase their green-fingered talents this summer in the annual garden competitions.

Powys County Council officials say tenants may enter their own garden, estate or nominate a neighbour's garden if they have their permission.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "County councillors and staff from the council's Housing Services Team will also be able to nominate estates and individual gardens if the tenant has given permission."

"And gardens that are entered into the competition will automatically be entered into a new shire category for this year's competition, the most bee friendly garden."

Every tenant in Powys will be sent a letter and form regarding this year's competition.

To enter, fill in the form and return it before June 3.

Worries over gun licence numbers

MORE than 3,000 temporary gun licences have been dished out by police in Shropshire and Mid Wales in the past five years, new figures have revealed.

Both Powys and West Mercia are in the top 10 for most temporary licences granted – an indication they are struggling to cope with a backlog of permanent applications.

A licensing department failing to process a firearm certificate renewal in the allotted time results in the police having to issue a Section 7 Temporary Permit.

The Countryside Alliance said because of that, issuing a high number of temporary permits was a "clear symptom of an inefficient service".

Dyfed-Powys Police handed out 993 temporary licences in 2015.

Police issue warning to farmers about raves

Report by Naomi Penrose

FARMERS and landowners are being urged to be vigilant over the coming months for signs of illegal gatherings and raves planned on their land ahead of the summer.

Dyfed-Powys Police say that organisers of such illegal gatherings can easily spread the word of an event and see numbers attending quickly grow due to social networking.

According to the force, these events can cause "considerable anxiety" and if they are not dealt with swiftly, they are difficult to stop or otherwise control, due often to the high numbers of people involved and the safety aspects surrounding breaking up such an event.

Chief Inspector Matt Scrase urged members of the public to be vigilant of people who approach landowners or enquire for land, in the guise of hiring for activities such as gymkhana and scouts/guides events.

"There is little doubt that these type of events are very well planned, organised and that local knowledge is important in drawing down the main group to a particular 'vulnerable' field, or area of land which has been targeted previously as a suitable venue," he said.

"Farmers, landowners and local communities are encouraged to report any suspicious activity immediately to the police, this may be an unusual numbers of vehicles, especially camper vans, vans or trucks in the locality, illegal trespassers who may be doing a 'reccie' of sites in advance of the event."

Anyone aware of suspicious activity should contact police on 101.

New wildlife programme introduced



The programme aims to introduce important animals to more areas of Wales

A PROGRAMME is underway to reintroduce elusive beavers, water voles and otters to more areas of Wales, as part of an effort to combat flooding and climate change.

Alicia Lewo-Dyke the new Welsh Beaver Project officer, will work with the wildlife trusts in Wales to help restore habitats for the reintroduction of beavers and other species including dragonflies.

She said: "Beavers, once native to Britain, have been extinct for hundreds of years but are often referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' because they can reduce the risk of flooding by creating dams which store rainwater.

"Beaver dams also trap sediment, which helps to filter the water and reduce the amount of pollution entering river systems. This provides ideal habitats for a range of wildlife, from fungi to invertebrates, fish, mammals and birds."

She said The Welsh Beaver Project started in 2005 and has been investigating the feasibility of reintroducing beavers back into Wales ever since.

"Beavers can repair some of the damage done to nature as they restore wetlands, open up woodland canopies along a riverbank and create areas of dead wood," she said.

Council urges public to try composting

POWYS County Council is encouraging households to get involved in International Compost Awareness Week by taking the opportunity to try composting for themselves.

The initiative runs until Sunday and it aims to show people how simple home composting is and demonstrate the great results that can be achieved by turning organic waste into nutrient-rich homemade compost.

About a third of waste can be composted at home, saving energy and resources and benefiting gardens.

Councillor John Powell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, said: "Many people don't realise how simple it is to home compost or just how much of their household waste can actually be composted. You can purchase a compost bin for a discounted rate of £20 including delivery from the council to get you started."

Vegetable peelings, prunings, paper and many other items from kitchens and gardens will decompose easily and naturally in a compost bin, leaving householders less waste to bag up and put out for collection and further processing.

Inquiry launched into bike theft

A POLICE investigation is under way following the overnight theft of an off road motorcycle.

The Kawasaki KXF250 off road motorcycle from Middletown was believed to be stolen overnight on Tuesday last week. It is thought that a vehicle or trailer was used to take the motorcycle, which had been stored in a shed. The bike has a distinctive green and black livery. Anyone with information is asked to contact Constable Dan Weston at Welshpool police station on 101.

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Cagefighting mum's bid for world glory

A FEMALE cagefighter from Mid Wales will head to the USA this summer to take part in the world championships of the dangerous and gritty combat sport.

Naomi Harvey, 35, will compete for the British Challenge Mixed Martial Arts (BCMMA) amateur straw weight title in Colchester, Essex, on Saturday before heading to Las Vegas in July to try for her first world title.

Mixed martial arts, or cage fighting, has established itself as a popular televised sport and its amateur scene is quickly growing in popularity among working professional men and now women too.

Naomi currently works a 50-plus hour week as a kickboxing trainer at Maldwyn Leisure Centre in Newtown. She also teaches self-defence classes and martial arts to children and trains six hours a day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Despite her small frame and ponytail, Naomi – who has a 15-year-old son who supports her at her fights – said she has always been a tomboy since childhood when she would prefer the rough and tumble of playing with the boys than shopping and putting on make up with the girls. "I was always play fighting as a child," she said. "I was physical and aggressive and preferred playing with boys and getting filthy."

"I grew up in Montgomery where I would hang out in a gang playing on rope swings up by Montgomery Castle – we were always on rope swings."

"I'm looking for sponsorship to help fund my trip to Vegas and allow me to thank my wonderful sponsors Blayneys Academy in Newtown and Glo Tanning Salon in Newtown."

To sponsor Naomi contact naomiharveypt@outlook.com

Councillor set to step down

A LONG-standing councillor will step down as the speaker and vice-chairman of Shropshire Council at the authority's next annual meeting.

Councillor David Lloyd MBE, one of two representatives for Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn, will stand down at the meeting on May 19. However, he will continue to serve as a councillor until May next year but won't be seeking re-election. Elected speaker when Shropshire Council was created in 2009 as a new unitary authority to replace the old Shropshire County Council, Councillor Lloyd said holding the role had been a "privilege".

The widely respected veteran councillor said his failing eyesight meant he could no longer drive himself to the meetings. "I would have been pleased to have continued to chair full meetings of council and undertaken other civic duties until failing eyesight meant I had to stop driving," he said.

"It has been a privilege to occupy the office of speaker and I now look forward to being a backbencher which will give me greater freedom to express my own views." Councillor Lloyd said he wanted to ensure he makes the public's voice heard in his role, especially in regards to the ongoing issue of the future of the county's healthcare provision.

Cash boost for sports groups

MORE than 30 sports groups across Shropshire are to receive a cash boost.

County sports partnership Energize has secured funding from Sport England's Sportivate programme to offer more opportunities for youngsters to get into sport.

The £39,110 investment is being divided between 31 projects, and will be used to pay for new equipment, training, coaching qualifications, facility hire, and encourage young people to get active. The projects are spread across the county, from Telford and Shrewsbury, to Bridgnorth, Shifnal, Oswestry, Ludlow, Cleobury Mortimer, Wem, Ellesmere, Whitchurch and Newport.

Activities getting support range from archery and handball to golf, tennis, cricket, sailing, trampolining, and a number of dance clubs. Ben Harper, senior sports manager at Energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, said: "We are delighted to be able to assist so many organisations once again with this Sportivate funding."

Kate thanks farmers for help with new TV series



Kate Humble and her Welsh sheepdog Teg, who originates from the Llangollen area



Kate Humble's new TV series traces her Welsh sheepdog Teg's ancestry

BROADCASTER Kate Humble has revealed how she has been "bowled over" by the farming community of Shropshire and Wales for helping her to learn essential shepherding skills and more about her beloved and faithful sheep dog, Teg, from Llangollen near Oswestry.

Kate wants to breed rare Welsh sheepdogs to highlight the plight faced by the threatened dogs that were once prized by ancient drovers and date back almost 1,000 years.

And her new series, *My Welsh Sheepdog's Tales*, is an attempt to trace the bloodline of her own Welsh sheepdog pup, Teg, thought to originate in the Llangollen area.

"One aspect of this documentary is to try to find out the heritage of my dog Teg," said Kate. "However, as she is not registered, we don't know anything about her mother's line – it is a mystery."

Kate bought Teg from Bronwen Tango, a former world champion fleece roller who now

judges Royal Welsh shearing competitions. In 2008, Bronwen was working in North Wales and she was asked by her employer to pick up a puppy from a man living on the Horseshoe Pass near Llangollen. Last week's episode of Kate's show included her visit to the Royal Welsh Show in Llanelli last summer, where she was given help and advice from farmers on how to work and breed Teg.

Kate said: "I've been bowled over by how incredibly welcoming, friendly and support-

ive farmers who were at the show were. They were full of advice for me and they have been amazingly helpful on my journey to discover the challenges and joys of working with a dog which began back in 2013."

"They have helped me to find out more about Teg's Welsh heritage, to see her potential genetically and the importance of finding a mate who is not only handsome but right for her."

The series follows Kate's highs and lows of learning to work with a dog.

Affection for hillfort is focus of new exhibition



Gwenhwyfar and the Barbarians by Tony Meadows



Campaigners from the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort (HOOOH) spell out their message

Report by Naomi Penrose

A COMMUNITY'S affection for an Oswestry landmark is the focus of a new art exhibition.

Hugging the Hillfort, featuring work by artists from the Oswestry borderlands and further afield, explores the many facets of Old Oswestry Hillfort, from neighbourhood greenspace to national heritage icon.

Residents fighting housing earmarked near the 3,000-year-old monument feel that its heritage, cultural and environmental value is not being properly recognised in local planning. They say the exhibition gives a unique voice to people's emotional connection with the hillfort's beauty and history. Running at Oswestry's Willow Gallery until May 21, more than 60 works are on show ranging from paintings, textiles and sculpture to jewellery, photography and ceramics.

It also includes paintings by pupils at Oswestry's Holy Trinity School.

The exhibition is part of the Artists Hugging the Hillfort (AHH!) project, a local art movement adding its weight to the campaign to protect Old Oswestry from what opponents see as inappropriate development.

First work from the project was debuted in February at the Hillfort Hug Weekend organised by the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort (HOOOH) community group which has arranged various protests and demonstrations at the landmark.

AHH! spokesperson Diana Baur said: "The project has created an exhibition of beautiful and thought-provoking works."

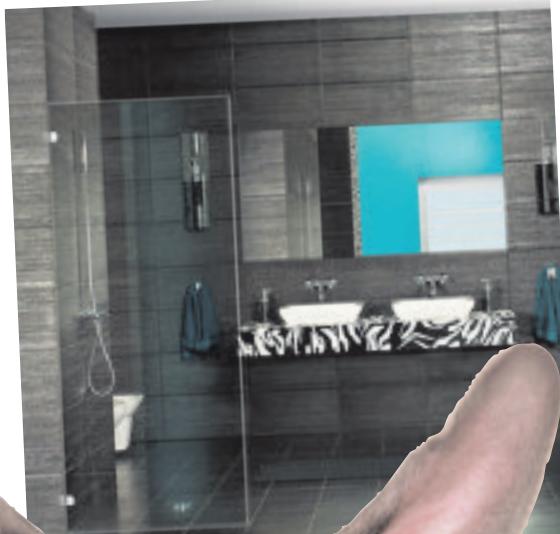
"The artists' responses have either focused on the beauty, preciousness, history and iconic nature of the hillfort, or on the enormous threat that hangs over its setting in the future."



Hillfort Pendant by Graham Mitchell



Enfolding the Ancient by Gill Crozier



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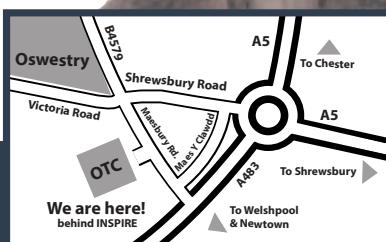
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Music festival hits right note

15

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, May 5, 2016



Talented musicians from around the world will perform at Whittington Chamber Music Festival



The Whittington Chamber Music Festival runs from May 17 to May 22

WHITTINGTON'S prestigious Chamber Music Festival has made a name for itself by focussing on just one great composer at a time.

Audiences are drawn from across the Midlands and beyond.

This month the fourth festival under the artistic directorship of James Barralet celebrates the 260th birthday of the one and only Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Sixteen world-class

Advertisement Feature

musicians from across Europe and the USA are due to spend 10 days in the area, rehearsing together in a big house on Offa's Dyke, then offering six concerts entirely devoted to the music of the 18th-century prodigy. The concerts run from Tuesday, May 17 to Sunday, May 22, and all begin at 7.30pm in Whittington Church.

As well as several returnees from previous

years, the Mozart ensemble includes the sensational Latvian violinist Kristine Balanas, the brilliant French violist Léa Hennino and principal instrumentalists of the London Symphony Orchestra. The week-long programme also features a lunchtime schools concert and a showing of the film "In Search of Mozart" at Kinokulture. The schools concert will be for 270 Key Stage 2 children and staff from seven schools. During the festival there will also be a demonstration lecture to a branch of the Uni-

versity of the Third Age. During lunchtime on May 20 the definitive film about the composer "In Search of Mozart" will be screened at Kinokulture, and the Festival Service in Whittington church on May 22 will give a nod to the evergreen biopic "Amadeus".

Ten young musicians from local schools will join the professional ensemble for 10 minutes on May 20 to play a Mozart arrangement tailored to the ability of each of them. This has become a highlight of the annual festival pro-

gramme. Supported by Arts Council England, tickets for each concert are priced at £15 and are available online at www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk or over the counter at Rowanthorn in Oswestry town centre or Whittington Post Office. Anybody aged eight to 25 is admitted free to any or all of the six concerts, though it is important to book a seat in advance on 01691 657986.

Full programme details may be found at www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk.



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Staff perks to remain at Wetherspoons

THE boss of Wetherspoons has vowed to maintain staff perks and bonuses despite the increase in the national living wage.

Tim Martin said he would retain the package of perks for its 37,000 staff, including at pubs across Shropshire. The news provide a boost for workers at Wetherspoons' Shropshire pubs and hotels, including Market Drayton's Hippodrome, Jewel of the Severn in Bridgnorth, Montgomery's Tower and the Shrewsbury Hotel in Shrewsbury, The Wilfred Owen in Oswestry, the William Withering in Wellington and the Thomas Botfield in Telford, plus the Black Boy in Newtown.

"I'm not going to cut any perks for employees as a result of the national living wage, we're a groovy company," Mr Martin said.

"About 40 per cent of our profits go to staff in the form of bonuses and free shares, and there are no plans for that to change."

His comments come after a string of retailers, including Eat and Caffe Nero, have come under fire for withdrawing various perks in order to fund the new wage hike. But Mr Martin cautioned that implementation of the pay hike is still in its first stage and the living wage could still have repercussions down the line.

Sales role for Sharon

SHARON Price has joined David Wilson Homes Mercia as sales adviser at its Montgomery Place development of family homes in Oswestry.

The show homes and sales centre is open Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 5.30pm, and on Mondays from 12.30pm to 5.30pm. Visit: www.dwh.co.uk or call 0844 811 3322.

SMALLHOLDINGS used to help Shropshire farmers break in to the industry could be sold off to the highest bidder in a cost-cutting move to save money.

Shropshire Council's 18 remaining smallholdings are likely to be sold off on the open market.

It means families living on the farms face an uncertain future.

The council changed its policy on smallholdings earlier this year to allow both tenants and their direct descendants to purchase the 18 properties, which total more than 400 hectares. Families were told they would have first refusal on the smallholdings. But in documents which will be published for consultation this month, the council now intends to maximise income by selling to the highest bidder.

The council says it is being forced to sell because of spiralling costs of repairs and maintenance.

In a report, the council says: "Rents are linked to the earnings potential of each holding. Against modern standards the sizes of the holdings are small.

"There is therefore no further scope to offset costs of repairs and maintenance which exceed income from rents."

As part of its consultation the council will put forward two options - selling the estate to the highest bidder in lots or as a whole, or selling it to an organisation wanting to maintain the estate and secure access to farming for future generations.

Report by Rebecca King

Council's smallholdings could be facing sell-off

Council's smallholdings could be facing sell-off

Hubs plan aimed at filling skills gap



Business people attended the Marches LEP annual conference

A NEW £2.8 million project is being launched in Shropshire which will see new training centres built for the advanced manufacturing sector.

The Marches LEP is tendering for businesses to come forward to play host to the new Advanced Manufacturing Hubs, which are aimed at filling the growing skills gaps in the local economy.

Details of the hubs were included in the LEP's annual report, which was published to coincide with the body's annual conference at Ludlow Racecourse.

The report also reveals that 42,000 new workers are needed to replace the retiring members of the existing workforce, while 139,000 job openings are expected to be created across the Marches between 2012 and 2022.

Despite the increasing need for skilled workers to come into the county workforce, the study shows that just nine per cent of employers in the area offer apprenticeships.

The new hubs are aimed at filling some of those gaps, and the plans suggest they will be operational, and delivering training courses and apprenticeships, from next April.

The report says: "A £2.8 million project is being launched this year which will see the development of advanced manufacturing hubs in the Marches region - regional training centres for advanced manufacturing skills."

Event marks changes at law company

AROUND 150 people attended a celebration event to mark an historic change in management at a law firm with offices in Oswestry.

Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors has appointed a new managing partner as David Battisby, who held the role for the past 13 years, retired at the end of April. The new man at the helm of the law firm is Brian Evans, and a special event was held at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery recently to mark the occasion. Brian has been with Lanyon Bowdler since 1992 and was head of agriculture as well as head of the dispute resolution team prior to being appointed as managing partner.

He will continue to be head of agriculture, with Andrew Pegg stepping up to become head of the dispute resolution team.

Brian said: "We felt it was important to formally thank David Battisby for his 35 years of service at Lanyon Bowdler, and in particular his last 13 years of being managing partner."

"Lanyon Bowdler has established itself as a professional firm with specialists across all legal disciplines who are highly skilled yet approachable and down to earth, and I am keen to continue David's good work to build on that ethos."

"The evening at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery was a chance to meet with clients and contacts from across Shropshire to herald the start of a new era for the firm, and to give David a fitting send off."

David Battisby is a well-known figure in the Shropshire business community, being a highly-experienced employment lawyer and part time employment judge. During his time as managing partner at Lanyon Bowdler he led the firm during its expansion into Ludlow, Oswestry and Hereford.

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Retail area is a hidden gem



Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington congratulates Nick O'Connor on keeping Old Chapel Court attractive for visitors



Old Chapel Court in Oswestry has an excellent variety of independent businesses

OLD Chapel Court is known by many as one of Oswestry's hidden gems.

Oswestry is renowned for its mix of independent retailers offering a customer service second to none and many of these fantastic businesses are based at Old Chapel Court, between English Walls and Church Street.

The businesses in Old Chapel Court take

Advertisement Feature

pride in what they do and are proud of how attractive the area is.

That pride was demonstrated when Old Chapel Court won the award for the Best Commercial Premises in last year's Oswestry in Bloom Awards.

And the businesses in Old Chapel Court were doubly delighted when the area also won the Oswestry Town Council Floral Award

He said: "The investment of the volunteers

Scheme 2105 Shield which was presented by the Mayor Councillor Peter Cherrington.

The mayor presented the award to Nick O'Connor, the owner of Old Chapel Court, surrounded by the colourful hanging baskets and planters lining the alleyway.

Councillor Cherrington spoke highly of the area when he presented the award.

He said: "The investment of the volunteers and those involved in Oswestry in Bloom should be congratulated on their effort.

"The outcome of all their work was that Oswestry received a gold award for the 11th successive year.

Members of the public have come up and complimented the high standard and attractiveness of Old Chapel Court, and it's a worthy winner.

I want to congratulate everyone who took part in the town council floral scheme and thank them for their contribution in making Oswestry a more pleasant and attractive

town in which to live, work and visit." It was the third time Old Chapel Court had won the award for best commercial floral display within the town centre conservation area, being a previous winner in 2012 and 2008.

Mr O'Connor said: "We're delighted to win the mayor's special award again.

"I'd like to think that we try to keep the courtyard looking attractive for the benefit not only of the general public, but also to attract people for the benefit of the retailers."

The businesses in Old Chapel Court take


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18 NEWS IN BRIEF

Decision time as voters go to the polls

THE future shape of the Welsh Assembly is set to be decided as Wales goes to the polls today (Thursday).

Mid Wales voters will be putting a cross on their ballot papers for the candidate and party they want to represent them in the Senedd, as well as the party or independent from the regional ballot.

The region's current Assembly Members, Conservative Russell George for Montgomeryshire, and Labour's Ken Skates for Clwyd South, will both be looking to keep their seats.

Mr George faces opposition from Jane Dodds for the Liberal Democrats, Aled Morgan Hughes for Plaid Cymru, Des Parkinson for UKIP, Martyn Singleton for Labour, and Richard Chaloner for the Green Party.

Mr Skates is up against Simon Baynes of the Conservative party, Aled Roberts for the Liberal Democrats, Mabon ap Gwynfor of Plaid Cymru, Duncan Rees of the Green Party, and Mandy Jones of UKIP.

Voters in Oswestry and Welshpool will have a chance to select their choice of Police and Crime Commissioner today. Residents will be asked to select commissioners for the West Mercia and Dyfed-Powys police forces.

The candidates in West Mercia are independent Barrie Sheldon, Conservative John Campion, UKIP's Peter Jewell, Green Party's John Raine, Lib Dem Margaret Rowley and Labour's Daniel Walton. The candidates for Dyfed-Powys are Welsh Liberal Democrat Richard Church, independent Edmund Davies, Dafydd Llywelyn from Plaid Cymru, Welsh Labour's Kevin Madge, Desmond Parkinson for UKIP Wales and Christopher Salmon for Welsh Conservatives.

Council agrees £6.4m spend

COUNCILLORS have agreed to spend more than £6 million replacing a 12-year-old computer system to manage children's and adult social care.

Members of Shropshire Council's cabinet agreed the move which will see it spend the multi-million pound figure over a five-year period.

The council said that the cost will be separate to an existing £600,000 review which is being undertaken into its ICT systems, but that the proposed £6.4 million system for social care will result in a return on investment within three years.

The report from council officer Andy Begley, says that there are currently "very significant levels" of risk if the current system is retained as it might "expose the council to a situation in which the existing duty of care to citizens may fail". The report states: "From initial investigation and analysis of projects within the digital transformation programme, it became evident that the social care project warranted an accelerated path to deliver urgently needed system capability.

"This is required to inform better management decisions which will drive down the rising cost of providing social care to adults in Shropshire."

The authority will pay for the project by borrowing against its own cash balances.

Iceland planning further expansion

SUPERMARKET Iceland plans to open 25 new stores this year, creating 2,000 jobs in the process.

The company's chief executive Malcolm Walker, who set up the business in Oswestry in the 1970, said that although the grocery sector was going through a "very tough" period, Iceland would continue to expand.

"We're planning to open 25 of our new Food Warehouse format stores this year, and this will create 2,000 new jobs," he said.

The supermarket's Food Warehouse stores combine a cash-and-carry format and the traditional Iceland style. The first two will open at Trafford Retail Park in Manchester and Avon Meads Retail Park in Bristol last week.

The frozen goods chain already has town centre branches in Market Drayton, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Telford, Welshpool, Wellington, and Whitchurch, but Food Warehouse stores will be on retail parks on the edge of towns.

Former gang member backs Knife Angel project



Darryl Laycock, left, with sculptor Alfie Bradley from the British Ironwork Centre



Sculptor Alfie Bradley shows Darryl Laycock the Knife Angel at the British Ironwork Centre

A FORMER knife gang member said he hopes Shropshire's answer to the Angel of the North – the 25-foot tall Knife Angel which will be officially unveiled later this year – will help to combat knife crime across the UK and the world over.

Darryl Laycock, a former member of a notorious Manchester drug gang, lost 30 friends through gang violence, said he was "habber-gasted" by the impact of the giant sculpture weighing five tonnes when it towered over

him at The British Ironwork Centre, near Oswestry. The statue is being created as part of a campaign to remove 100,000 knives off the streets through a national amnesty.

Darryl who now works with Greater Manchester Police to turn young people away from street violence said: "When I looked at The Knife Angel I saw the names of two people I knew. And I am thinking of words to inscribe in my own tribute to my cousin to add to the sculpture. Knife crime needs to stop. I've

changed and others can change. This sculpture is a lasting legacy to everybody who has perished through knife crime, throughout the UK and around the world."

Mothers of knife crime victims have contacted the British Ironwork Centre asking to engrave personal tributes to their children on individual blades.

Sculptor Alfie Bradley said: "On the back of the feathers we are trying to get as many families as possible who have suffered through

knife crime and have lost anyone to come and engrave their own message.

"For many of the families it has been the first time they have felt they have been able to do anything for their lost loved ones, so it is a really emotional piece. It gives them the chance to have their message on there forever."

"The angel's feathers will shine like a diamond. The world hasn't seen anything like this before, it will be international news when it is finished later this year."

Hillsborough conclusion was 'a landmark day' says Paul



TNS goalkeeper Paul Harrison attended the Hillsborough inquest conclusion



Liverpool FC and fans of the club have supported the Hillsborough families for more than 20 years

Report by Sally Williams

THE son of one of the 96 football fans killed in the Hillsborough disaster says an inquest conclusion that they were unlawfully killed was a "landmark day".

Paul Harrison, goalkeeper and captain for The New Saints Football Club in Oswestry, said he was relieved that the jury had come to the right decision.

Mr Harrison's father Gary and his uncle Stephen were both killed in the tragedy at the FA Cup Semi-Final in 1989.

The ruling of unlawful killing was one of 14 conclusions reached by the inquest jury last week, which conclusively found that fan behaviour did not contribute to the tragedy.

Mr Harrison, who attended the inquest conclusion, said: "It was basically just a feeling of shock and relief really, after all this time, getting the right decision. It's unbelievable, to keep going and to finally get here 27 years later to get the right decision against the system is pretty unbelievable."

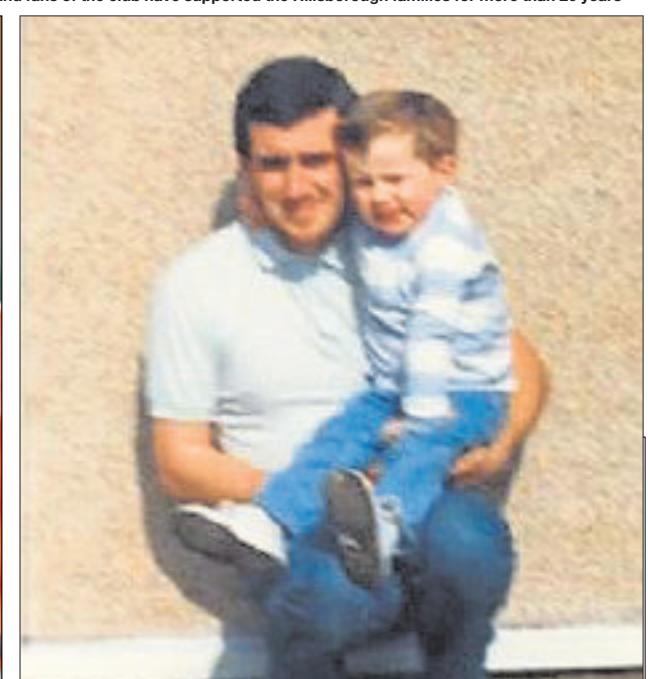
"It really was a landmark day. I don't know if bitter is the right word. Frustrated, a bit confused, that the authorities can sort of hide these things away for such a long time. I feel a bit confused with a lack of confidence really with the police force and the Government and others. But we got there in the end. It was the right decision and the truth is finally out."

Mr Harrison said he was now keen to see prosecutions follow the inquest conclusions.

He said: "We will be speaking to legal teams over the next few weeks, to find out where we go from here and what the next steps are, so hopefully that's the way we will be moving."



Paul Harrison is captain of The New Saints of Oswestry



Gary Harrison, who lost his life at the Hillsborough tragedy, with his son Paul

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A spacious executive property, 8 Redwood Close, Leighton, Welshpool lies in an exclusive development and has around 3,500 square feet of accommodation overlooking the surrounding countryside.

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The accommodation on the ground floor is flexible and is currently used as an entrance hall, a large kitchen/dining room, a sitting room, cinema room, conservatory, boot room, utility and cloakroom. The entrance hall is spacious with stairs off. The kitchen/dining room has fitted units, an island with a breakfast bar and glazed doors to the patio and garden. The sitting room has a multi fuel burner and doors to the conservatory. The cinema room has a fitted unit with shelves and a bay window. Throughout the ground floor there is underfloor heating.

Upstairs the master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom and a dressing room with fitted wardrobes. The dressing room could be used as a bedroom. Bedroom two has an en-suite and the two further bedrooms have fitted wardrobes, one of which is currently used as an office. There is also a family bathroom on the first floor. Outside, there is a double garage, parking spaces, garden and a patio.

Nearby Welshpool is famous for the Glyndwr's Way and the Offa's Dyke path and is surrounded by the rolling hills of Montgomeryshire. An area steeped in local history it is only four miles from the border and has a variety of amenities including shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels. A number of country pursuits are on the doorstep Powis Castle is a four-mile drive. There is a host of excellent private and state school options within travelling distance, a train station in Welshpool and good road links.

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Spectacular stone cottage has stables and adjoining paddock

CEFN CANOL
£349,950 >>>

A superb three-double-bedroomed detached stone country cottage with stables and an adjoining paddock, Isfryn, Cefn Canol lies just 10 minutes from Oswestry.

Having been refurbished to a high standard, it is now for sale through Town & Country at £349,950 with no chain.

Attractively decorated and retaining a wealth of original character, the cottage is double-glazed throughout and features an impressive bespoke Kenton Jones kitchen/dining room. Accommodation comprises a porch, hallway, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/dining room, office area, utility room, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The mature gardens to the rear have been tastefully landscaped around a feature pond, while an adjoining stable yard leads to the paddock of around one acre.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



REDNAL
£725,000

An individual country residence comprising a five-bedroomed family house, a detached two-bedroomed annexe, a further detached office/separate accommodation, a timber two storey outbuilding and paddocks in around six acres, Little Sutton, Rednal, West Felton lies in an unspoilt rural setting.

It is for sale through Balfours and Halls at £725,000. The main property has three reception rooms, a family kitchen, office, utility room, a master bedroom with an en-suite shower room, four further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property has attractively appointed, yet deceptively spacious, "cottage style" internal accommodation, of great charm and character, which retains a number of attractive original features.



It also has the benefit of a well-appointed detached single storey annexe, which is ideal for a member of the family, or for "letting out".

This is currently let.

It lies in a beautiful rural setting in the heart of the North Shropshire countryside.

Whilst being in a peaceful setting, it is only approximately four miles from the well-known border market town of Oswestry, which has an excellent range of local shopping, recreational and educational facilities.

It is also within easy motoring distance of the county towns of Shrewsbury (16 miles) and Chester (30 miles), both of which have a more comprehensive range of amenities.

Contact Balfours of Shrewsbury on 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk or Halls on 01691 622602 or visit www.hallsgb.com



Exceptionally appointed home sits in a superb rural position

PORTH-Y-WAEN
£274,500 <<<

An exceptionally well appointed country property, Station House, Porth-y-Waen near Oswestry, has double garaging and workshop as well as a garden and small separate paddock.

The home is on the market through JJ Dell&Co for £274,500.

The property benefits from double glazing and central heating and has two good sized reception rooms.

There is a breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, ensuite and bathroom.

There is ample car parking, a large double garage and an attractive garden as well as a small adjoining grass paddock.

The property is situated on the outskirts of Porth-y-Waen occupying a rural position convenient to travelling to Pant village with its shop and post office and primary school.

For more details contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

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Kinnerley

£269,000

- An immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- The property has been maintained to the highest of standards
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, large Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Integral Garage/utility.
- Private and low maintenance gardens to the rear
- uPVC double glazing and oil fired central heating.

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- Sealed unit double glazing and night storage heating
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- A lift services all floors.

NEW

Elm Tree Park
Llanymynech

£390,000

- Four New Build Luxurious homes available
- Large open plan kitchen/diner with high quality appliances
- French doors into rear garden, Utility Room
- Study, living room with log burner, integral Double Garage
- Master Bedroom with en-suite, three other bedrooms and family Bathroom
- Prices from £390,000

NEW

Trinity Close
Gobowen

£149,995

- A well presented 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Rear Cloakroom
- 3 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Private rear gardens with large raised floral beds
- Ample off road parking to the front.
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating

Shrewsbury Road
Oswestry

£279,500

- A spacious 4 bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Having period features throughout. Large Entrance Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen, Dining Room, Cloakroom, Boiler Room, Cellar
- 4 large Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio
- Ample off road parking. Gas fired central heating, patio

Ardmillan Close
Oswestry

£215,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a Detached 4 Bedroom Bungalow
- Maintained to a high standard throughout
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom 4/Dining Room, 3 good size bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden including patio area.
- Enclosed lawn and a long driveway leading to a single garage.
- Gas central heating, double glazing and CCTV are installed

Laburnum Drive
Oswestry

£135,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Maintained to a high standard throughout
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Utility & Cloaks
- 3 good size BedRooms and a Family Bathroom.
- A large enclosed rear garden, further lawned garden and driveway
- Gas central heating and double glazing. NO CHAIN

Castle Street
Oswestry

£105,000

- A deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom End Terrace House
- The property contains a host of original features
- Including stripped floors, brick feature walls and exposed beams.
- Entrance Hall, Living Room and Kitchen
- 2 good size BedRooms, Bathroom and additional Attic Room
- Slabbed area to the front.
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating D

Station Road
Weston Rhyn

£109,950

- A well maintained and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property
- Lounge, large Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, ground floor Family Bathroom
- 2 first floor BedRooms and first floor Bathroom.
- Rear courtyard garden, good size front driveway and off-road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D
- The property should be of interest to first time buyers and investors

Hayes View
Oswestry

£299,950

- Executive Detached Family Home situated in large plot in a private cul-de-sac
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge With double doors leading into Dining Rm, Conservatory
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room overlooks the garden to the rear
- Utility Area leading directly into the integrated Double Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite & 3 other BedRooms & Family Bathroom
- Well maintained and secure South facing rear garden
- Large tarmac driveway with views towards open countryside.

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Sales to first time buyers across the UK are on the up

Sales to first time buyers in the UK were up in March and real estate agents expect to see further increases in sales to the group following the buy to let stamp duty changes.

Some 28% of total sales in March went to people buying their first home, an increase of 4% compared to February, according to the latest housing market report from the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA).

The report also says that 39% of estate agents expect the stamp duty change which saw the introduction of 3% rate on buy to let properties and second homes to increase availability for first time buyers as interest from investors slows.

More than a third of estate agents, some 36%, argue sales to first time buyers will pick up further, due to less competition for properties.

Supply

Overall, the supply of houses available to buyers soared by 54% in March from 35 properties available to buy per branch in February to 54 in March.

On the other hand, demand decreased last month, when agents reported an average 417 house hunters registered per member branch, down from 463 in February when demand for housing was at the highest level in 12 years.

In March, estate agents also reported a decrease in the number of properties selling for more than asking price. Only 7% of agents saw this happen in March compared to 11% in February.

"The last few months first time buyers have had to compete with landlords for the same properties and those landlords have really pushed hard to complete ahead of the rise in stamp duty," said Mark Hayward, NAEA managing director.

Increase

"Now, in theory things should get easier for first time buyers as we have seen with a slight increase in sales this month and as those seeking to buy to let will tail off," he explained.

"However in reality, it's unlikely in the long term that first time buyers will notice a huge difference, as prices remain high and housing is in short supply. The Government needs to significantly increase the number of homes that are being built in this country to really make a difference to those that are struggling to get on the housing ladder," he added.

House prices lift to record high of £202,436 in April

House prices lifted to a new record high of £202,436 on average in April after a burst of housing market activity, an index has found.

Property values edged up by 0.2% month on month across the UK and by 4.9% annually, Nationwide Building Society said.

Estate agents had reported buy-to-let investors rushing to beat a stamp duty deadline on April 1 which saw the cost of the tax hiked by three percentage points for people buying second homes.

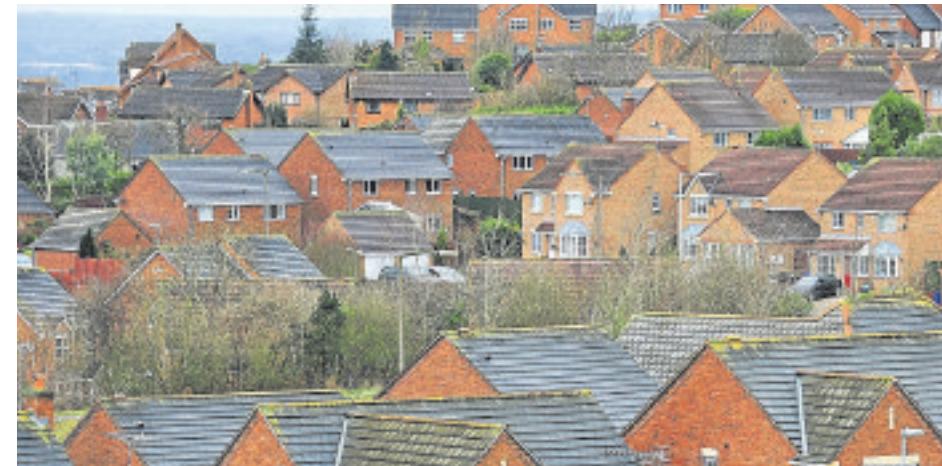
There have also been reports that this freed up some house-sellers to trade up, pushing up house prices higher up the property chain. House price growth has slowed down slightly, however, compared with March, when property values increased by 0.7% month on month and by 5.7% annually.

Nationwide chief economist Robert Gardner said: "This slowdown returns the annual pace of house price growth to the fairly narrow range between 3% and 5% that had been prevailing since the summer of 2015.

"It may be that the surge in house purchase activity resulting from the increase in stamp duty on second homes from April 1 provided a temporary boost to prices in March.

"However, it is possible that the recent pattern of strong employment growth, rising real earnings, low borrowing costs and constrained supply will tilt the demand/supply balance in favour of sellers and exert upward pressure on price growth once again in the quarters ahead."

Mr Gardner said that looking at recent reports showing mortgage lending and



house sales data, while there is evidence that buy-to-let mortgage lending increased sharply in March, a large proportion of the boost to house purchase activity also came from cash buyers.

He continued: "Cash purchasers have become a more significant part of the market since the financial crisis, accounting for around 35% of all transactions since 2008, compared with around 25% in 2006/7."

"Cash investors would have also been better placed to buy properties in the relatively short period of time between the stamp duty announcement at the November Autumn Statement and the implementation on April 1."

Looking ahead, he said: "House purchase activity is likely to fall in the months ahead given the number of purchasers that brought forward transactions. The recovery thereafter may also be fairly gradual, especially in the BTL (buy-to-let) sector, where a wealth of other policy changes, such as the reduction in tax relief for landlords from 2017 are likely to exert an ongoing drag."

Mr Gardner also said there is a risk that the recent stampede of people snapping up properties will make existing shortages of homes on the market worse.

He said figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics) have shown the number of properties on estate agents'

books was already close to all-time lows, according to data going back to the late 1970s.

Commenting on Nationwide's report, Howard Archer, chief UK and European economist at IHS Global Insight, said: "Current increased domestic, economic and political uncertainties could also be reining in housing market activity, especially in the run-up to June's EU referendum. Consequently, house prices may well be softer for the next few months. Nevertheless, we still expect house prices to post relatively solid increases over 2016 as a whole – likely by around 5% on the Nationwide measure – with support coming from a relative shortage of properties as well as decent buyer interest."

Top Tips

Is there anything that buyers can do to give themselves an "edge" over other buyers when making an offer?

Property expert Phil Spencer says: "Time can make all the difference when it comes to making an offer on a property. Buyers should be efficient and make sure they have everything in place for their mortgage application.

"Secondly, it's not always about being the highest bidder – your ability to get your finances in a row and solicitors organised helps to show you are a committed purchaser.

"Buying a house is a business transaction and you are going to need to tackle it in this way."



'Bank of mum and dad' will help to finance a quarter of mortgages

The "Bank of Mum and Dad" will help finance 25% of UK mortgage transactions this year, according to research.

Parents are set to lend their children £5 billion in order to help their children on to the property ladder.

If the lending power of all these parents was combined, it would be a top 10 mortgage provider, the BBC said. Nigel Wilson, chief executive of financial services firm Legal & General, which carried out the research, said the data showed a number of issues, including house prices being "out of sync with wages".

The research estimated that the Bank of Mum and Dad will provide deposits for more than 300,000 mortgages.

The homes purchased will be worth £77 billion and the average contribution is £17,500 or 7% of the average purchase price, the BBC said.

But relying on parental support might soon be unsustainable as parents could be giving away more than they can afford.

Mr Wilson said that in London the funding method was reaching "tipping point" already as parental contributions



made up more than 50% of the wealth (excluding property) of the average household in the capital.

He said: "The Bank of Mum and Dad plays a vital role in helping young people to take their early steps on to the housing ladder." Not all young people have parents who can afford to help them and some who do still do

not have enough to buy a place of their own, he said.

He added: "We need to fix the housing market by revolutionising the supply side – if we build more houses, demand can be met at a sensible level and prices will stabilise relative to wages."



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Sir Anthony Cleaver chats with guests at the lunch



Professor Peter Starbuck, Nigel Woodward and Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies



David Franklin, one of the organisers of the lunch, addresses guests

Cheers to saint

Report by Sally Williams

GUESTS enjoyed a speech from the head of the Natural Environment Research Council during a lunch in Oswestry to mark St George's Day.

Sir Anthony Cleaver spoke at the event which was held at the Wynnstay Hotel.

Leading business people attended the lunch as did civic dignitaries including the Mayor of Oswestry Councillor Peter Cherrington.

Also among the guests was Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire. Many of the guests took the opportunity to admire a St George sculpture from the British Ironwork Centre which was on show at the event. The sculpture depicts St George slaying a dragon.

The mayor got more than he bargained for when he had a clash with the dragon sculpture.

"When I was having my photo taken I was posing with my head tucked under the dragon's wing and got a little scratch which drew blood and I've still got the scar," Councillor Cherrington joked. "But even though I had blood on my head, we had some good photos and a thoroughly good event with great company. I'm a proud Englishman and borderman – because my top half is Welsh and my bottom half is English."

"I was born in Oswestry on September 12, 1952, and as a breech birth I started off in England but came out in Wales."

"As a matter of fact I support England in the football and Wales in the rugby."

"I spent 12 years travelling the world with the Navy – between 1970 and 1982 – and after emptying out a bin in South America and seeing children waiting the other side to eat the scraps, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else apart from England – it is a wonderful place to be."



Guests enjoyed a lunch at the Wynnstay Hotel to mark St George's Day. Photos: Steve Leath



Mayor Peter Cherrington with the St George sculpture



Councillor Vince Hunt and daughter Amber Hunt enjoy the celebrations



Martyn Bentley, Sir Anthony Cleaver and David Franklin



Guests raise a glass to St George at the Wynnstay Hotel lunch

Only here for a flying visit

ALTHOUGH temperatures seem to be tentatively rising again, the recent chilly snap is a reminder that weather patterns can be erratic at this time of the year.

As usual it is not the Met Office forecast that is most reliable but the habits and movements of our wildlife species, especially the birds.

The first sign that things are on the change for me is when I see the blue tits first prospecting for a nest site, then building it and finally exhaustively searching the garden for food to bring up the chicks. But the traditional bird to listen to at this time of the year is of course the cuckoo. In fact, sticking with tradition, it is customary to write to The Times with one's first sighting or sounding of a cuckoo – perhaps we Salopian could do the same here at The Chronicle? But hold your horses for this year, the county's first officially recorded cuckoo has already been heard on April 20 at Whixhall.

The earliest-ever reliable record of a cuckoo in England was one at Farnham in Surrey on February, 20, 1953 but most begin to be noticed this month. But their stay can be extremely short. Adult cuckoos move back to Africa as soon as the breeding season is over which can be as early as the second half of June in southern England.

Though there are 54 species of old world cuckoos, just two live in Europe with the remainder mostly restricted to Africa, Asia and Australasia. Our species, the common cuckoo, spends nine months of the year in tropical Africa, where it has never been heard to sing. That is a shame and must have been an anathema to native Africans being told of the bird's name by visiting Europeans in centuries past for name cuckoo is onomatopoeic, taken of course from the

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



Blue Tit and Blossoms – oil on board – by Ben Waddams

bird's call. I recently heard what I thought was a common cuckoo in the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania. I was absolutely convinced it was 'our' species but I expect I was mistaken if the above fact is indeed correct. Perspicacity was never my strong point. However this bird certainly was 'cuckoo-ing' and the common cuckoo is the only member of the family that calls cuckoo-cuckoo-cuckoo. Most of the others have loud voices but totally different calls. Maybe the jury is still out on the crater bird.

Meanwhile back in Shropshire, each female will lay between 12 and 22 eggs within the season. All these will be deposited in different nests. These nests however will be of the same parasitised species. More than 120 different species have been parasitised by cuckoos in Europe and in Britain the most favoured species are dunnock, meadow pipit and reed bunting. However a female cuckoo will generally lay her eggs in a nest belonging to the same species of bird that reared her. An act which I decide 'sentimental' or 'sinister.'

Yet there is hope for the poor old reed bunting et al. Though cuckoo eggs usually resemble those of their host, around 20 per cent are rejected by the eagle eyed parents and so never hatch. The young cuckoos that are not rejected follow their parents back to Africa several weeks later to 'cuckoo' or not as the case may be.

See Ben's films, photos and artwork at benwaddams.com

Talks to be held²⁵ over school dog mess decision

A SCHOOL which closed its playing fields to the public because of dog owners failing to pick up their pet's mess could reverse its decision following calls from nearby residents.

Bosses at Oswestry School closed Maes-y-Llan playing fields in February amid concerns for pupil safety due to dog walkers not picking up after their pooches.

However, following pleas from local dog walkers, deputy mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Paul Milner, will meet school headteacher Julian Noad tomorrow (Friday) to discuss a way forward for all parties.

"This is an important bit of green space for local people, especially elderly residents who live nearby that are unable to walk as far as the Racecourse to walk their dogs. This space is vital for them, and following their calls for some sort of resolution I will be meeting with the headteacher to discuss this," said Councillor Milner.

"It's important that the resolution is accepted by both parties."

"I think it's good of the school to engage with us. I feel it's important that there's a good relationship between the school and local residents."

Councillor Milner said he believes that if the school overturns its decision there would be conditions in place, such as dogs remaining on leads in some areas of the field.

He said: "I will know more after Friday but I think the key here really is clean up your dog's mess. I know 99.5 per cent of walkers were responsible but that minority need to take notice because that's what prompted the school's decision."

Announcing the decision to close off the field to the public earlier this year, headteacher Mr Noad said it was a "shame" but pupil and staff safety was the priority.

At the time he highlighted concerns about pupils and staff health, after saying there had been a growing number of occurrences of dog waste being left on the children's play area, and adding to the frustration staff members were regularly having to remove plastic bags by hand containing dog mess which were being left on the fields or in the hedgerows.

In February he said: "Sadly it's time for a clampdown on public use."

"This has been going on for quite some time now and it just can't carry on. It is a danger to children's health but not only our children, we have children visiting from other schools playing matches here."

"It's a shame because it is the minority, we do have so many considerate and sensible people that walk their dogs here but we have to put pupil and staff safety first."



Entertainment unleashed

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NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

Cinema listings

RATCHET & CLANK (U)



Game on – 8/10
Otherworldly videogame characters Ratchet and Clank come to life in this computer-animated romp. Ratchet (voiced by James Arnold Taylor) is a mechanic on Planet Veldin in the Solana Galaxy. Chairman Drek (Paul Giamatti) and his robotic henchman Victor (Sylvester Stallone) invade Veldin but Ratchet and cute robotic sidekick Clank (David Kaye) save the day.

GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (PG)



Bad theory – 3/10
A high school history teacher Grace (Melissa Joan Hart) is lecturing students about important figures including Martin Luther King Jr and Gandhi, when one of the class, Brooke (Hayley Orrantia), asks a question about Jesus. Grace responds by quoting scripture – which violates state and federal laws. Several parents file lawsuits against her.

FRIEND REQUEST (15)



Unfriendly – 4/10
Popular Laura Woodson (Alycia Debnam-Carey) shares every facet of her life on Facebook. She regularly posts pictures of her boyfriend Tyler (William Moseley) and pals. Troubled classmate Marina Mills (Liesl Ahlers) sends a friend request to Laura and she accepts. Soon after, Marina becomes alarmingly possessive and clingy.

JANE GOT A GUN (15)



Smoking hot – 7/10
Bill Hammond (Noah Emmerich), strewn with bullets, makes his way back to his smallholding, where his no-nonsense wife Jane (Natalie Portman) tends to his wounds. He reveals he's upset the outlaw John Bishop (Ewan McGregor). Jane gallops off to call in on the drunkard gunslinger Dan (Joel Edgerton) to ask for his assistance. It soon transpires the two have history.

Blown away by drama

Review by Keeley Bolger

GRIEF, we're told, comes in many different forms.

There's no wrong way to grieve, apparently. Except of course, there is.

And nowhere is grief more structured than in Hollywood.

There, grief is either a granite albatross weighing the sufferer down until eventually they crack and, more often than not, scream at a coldly beautiful landscape until finally, their artful tears fall. Or, it is quite the opposite; it is a fully formed thing from the offset.

This much-seen Hollywood version of grief is a blanket which the sufferer is wholly covered by and fully in tune with, basking in their loss while a soundtrack of touching acoustic songs play out as the screen is flooded with a golden-tinted montage of 'better times'.

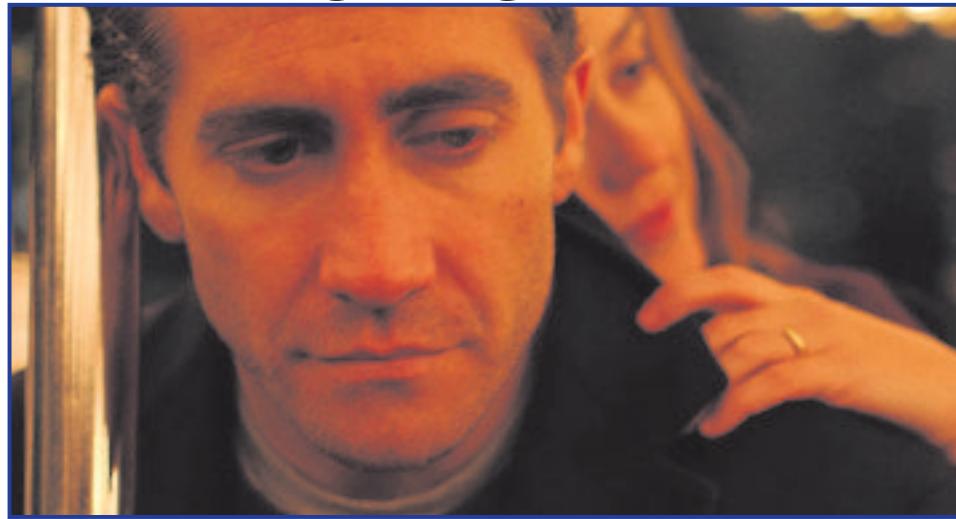
These can be long beach walks, ice creams licked off noses and soft punches on the arm, before realising with a shrug, that of course, 'this...' – be it selling the house, finding a new partner, or donating their beloved's cardigan – ...is what he/she would have wanted'.

Demolition, the new comedy drama from Wild and Dallas Buyers Club director Jean-Marc Vallée, then, offers neither trope for its anti-hero, Davis Mitchell, (Jake Gyllenhaal).

It's not a version of grief any of the dearly departed would want for their loved ones.

Widowed after a car accident killed his wife Julia (Heather Lind), the young banker is left with a numbness he can't shake.

He's not just numb about his high-flying job at the bank, where his father-in-law Phil (Chris Cooper) also happens to be the boss, or his covetable home and possessions, he's also indifferent to Julia's death and unmoved by his colleagues and loved



Jake Gyllenhaal as Davis – a man who is grief-stricken, but not as we know it

ones' needs for him to heal, or at least heal in a way they understand.

The only person who penetrates his apathetic exterior is Karen (Naomi Watts).

As the customer services representative for a vending machine company, Karen receives a letter of complaint from Davis about the machine in the hospital which gobbled his money, but didn't give him his goods, on the night of his wife's death.

But while he writes about the complaint, he also expands on his life and loss, until eventually his letters become increasingly confessional in tone to the point where Karen and Davis meet and strike a friendship.

Soon, Davis becomes entwined in Karen's life and that of her troubled teenage son Chris (Judah Lewis) who has become cold and distant to her lately.

As time goes on, Davis reverts to more

extreme tactics – much to the shock of Phil – to feel again and, with the help of Karen and Chris, rebuild his life and unlock the struggles Chris is going through.

While sentimentality could be rife, Demolition avoids it largely due to the welcome flashes of humour and thoughtful performances from Gyllenhaal and his young costar Lewis. But it's just a shame that Watts is underwritten.

Book reviews

DIVERGENT (BOX SET)

By Veronica Roth
Published by
HarperCollins

Bookshelves are full of dystopian young adult fiction at the moment, but the Divergent series is possibly the best offering.

The box set, which contains the trilogy of Divergent, Insurgent and Allegiant, as well as Four, a collection of short stories exploring the back story of the character Four, has been released to coincide with the film release of Allegiant.

The stories follow Tris as she breaks away from her own faction, where selflessness is highly valued, to join the brave



and foolhardy Dauntless faction, before getting involved in a battle between the factions and the factionless, which leads to the revelation of a secret which changes their world completely.
By Pam Kingsley

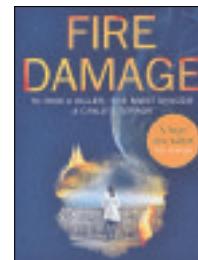
FIRE DAMAGE

By Kate Medina
Published by
Harper Collins

This is the first of a series which introduces us to psychologist Dr Jessie Flynn, currently completely baffled by her latest case involving a deeply traumatised four-year-old boy who can only tell her that someone called the Shadowman came, and that a little girl knows who he is.

A former patient of Jessie's, Captain Ben Callan, is out in Afghanistan investigating the death of an officer but his only suspect refuses to give any information.

When a body washes up on a Sussex beach

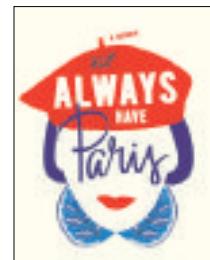


it becomes clear both cases are connected.
Medina has given us a very readable thriller with strong characters, a gripping plot, and a hammer blow of an ending.
By Sally Bunn

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS

By Emma Beddington
Published by
Macmillan
We'll Always Have Paris is a memoir from journalist and award-winning blogger Emma Beddington.

Obsessed with everything French since stumbling upon a copy of French Elle as a teenager, Beddington sets about doing all she can to leave her humble Yorkshire roots behind and embrace the French philosophy and way of life. She even eventually fulfills her lifelong dream of living in Paris, but can the reality live up to her expectations?
Can it ever?



Beddington's memoir is a sumptuous ode to Gallic philosophy, Parisian patisserie and French joie de vivre. But it is also a candid and poignant account of grief, loss, relationships and identity.
By Zahra Saeed

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Cornwall – St Ives, Penzance, Padstow and Falmouth

Dazzling beaches, quaint fishing villages, flourishing gardens, delicious Cornish icecream and balmy temperatures – just a few reasons why Cornwall is a perfect destination to get away from it all.

On this four-day break enjoy visits to favourite places and hidden gems such as Trebah Gardens.

This 26-acre sub-tropical paradise features cascading waterfalls, ponds of giant koi carp and glades of ferns and palms which wind down to a private and secluded beach.

St Ives is a beautiful resort with golden sand, a clear ocean and where life is centred around the harbour with its ancient quays. The town itself is

a delight to explore where cobbled streets are lined with interesting shops and the museum gives a fascinating insight into the local history.

Nestled in the heart of Mounts Bay lies the historic market town of Penzance. There's a selection of shops, galleries, smugglers taverns and fine restaurants and the seafront promenade is perfect for a stroll.

The small fishing town of Padstow retains most of its old-world charm

and tradition and is a super place to explore. It is, of course, famous for its restaurants including Rick Stein's cafe and takeaway fish and chips.

Located at the entrance to the third largest harbour in the world, Falmouth has many attractions to offer. As well as streets full of shops, galleries, restaurants and pubs, boats of every size can be seen on the waterfront. There is also a super museum which gives an insight into maritime heritage and heroes.



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Collabro found fame on Britain's Got Talent



Welsh sweetheart Katherine Jenkins is ready to wow the crowds



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Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks in London, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Self-drive breaks are also available to book.

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The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package, departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on the Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

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For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance (meal not included). Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket with the option to upgrade, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach or rail travel
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- ✓ Evening meal (with certain packages)
- ✓ Theatre ticket
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

"The "from" price and price bands vary for each show
— see brochure/web page for details."



DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES



Noah Stewart is looking forward to performing at Llangollen

Stars looking forward to taking to the stage

PLANS are being finalised to bring two of the biggest names in classical music to the stage at an international event near the Shropshire border.

Katherine Jenkins and Noah Stewart will be performing at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod this summer.

Noah Stewart is set for a third appearance at Llangollen in four years as he prepares to join the Welsh mezzo soprano on stage for a concert adaption of Georges Bizet's opera, Carmen.

On the opening night of this year's festival, on July 5, he will play the role of the lead male role of Don José opposite Katherine in her portrayal of the fiery gypsy, Carmen.

Stewart, who hails from Harlem, in New York, said: "I'm so excited it's going to be a wonderful evening. Katherine is such a fabulous singer and a truly beautiful person."

"We have worked together before. We did the Glasgow Proms three summers ago, I think it was the last night and we sang a series of duets together. She has an amazing voice and is such a wonderful and talented woman."

"I've played Don José more than any other throughout my career, in fact at least 36 times. It's a fantastic part to play and perform and Don José is such a complex character who falls madly in love with this sexy, alluring gypsy girl. It's a tragic tale of a love triangle that has become the most performed opera of all time."

Katherine said she is very excited to be singing the role.

She said: "It's a role I have always wanted to sing. I studied Carmen at the Royal Academy of Music before I graduated and being a mezzo soprano, it's my favourite opera."

"I've always talked about doing this and it will be the first time fans will be able to hear all the arias in one evening. I do usually include several operatic arias in my concerts but I have never condensed and performed all the arias from a single opera into one concert."

Gregynog event will hopefully bring boost from Ireland



TOURISM bosses in Mid Wales are expecting a major boost from Ireland this summer after a music festival announced its line-up.

The Gregynog Festival, which is Wales' oldest music festival, will be held in June and will feature a range of classical and traditional artists.

The festival, launched in 1933 by philanthropists Gwendoline and Margaret Davies, granddaughters of Victorian mining and railway entrepreneur David Davies, will feature concerts, drama, poetry, film, talks and exhibitions on the theme of Eire between June 16 and 26 at venues throughout Mid Wales.

It comes as the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising will be marked

in Wales this summer, recalling how 1,800 Irish people who took part, including Michael Collins, were kept at the Fron-goch prison camp near Bala.

Musics drama and talks inspired by the Rising and Fron-goch feature during the festival programme as well as forming part of the Welsh Government's project Cymru'n Cofio/Wales Remembers 1914 to 1918.

Irish musicians and historians, plus major international artists who specialise in performing Irish repertoire, are travelling to Mid Wales to take part.

Jordi Savall returns to the festival with Martin Hayes, the folk fiddler from County Clare, while other Irish musicians include Chamber Choir Ireland, soprano Ailish Tynan, pianist Finghin Collins and harpist Siobhan Armstrong with her Irish Consort.

International visitors include Ira-

nian harpsichord virtuoso Mahan Esfahani, French early music ensemble Nevermind and the Academy of Ancient Music, directed by Croatian violinist Bojan Cicic.

"So many close cultural connections have formed between Ireland and Mid Wales over the years in terms of music, the arts and local history," said Dr Rhian Davies, artistic director of the Gregynog Festival.

"These connections are highlighted throughout the festival programme, including the Abermule composer Peter Warlock who spent time composing in Dublin, the Irish harp pins excavated at Montgomery Castle, the 6th century Irish Saint Melangell, and the Celtic Library of Gwendoline and Margaret Davies."

Dr Davies said festival organisers were expecting strong interest from Ireland.

**Casualty**

8.50pm

Elle Gardner, already a familiar face at Holby, becomes the Emergency Department's new consultant. As a single mother of three unruly teenagers, Elle is no stranger to negotiating chaotic environments. However, her first day in the ED proves to be a baptism of fire. Medical drama, with Jaye Griffiths.

**Dad's Army**

8.30pm

Mainwaring is elated to find a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute – but first the platoon has to get him down. David Croft and Jimmy Perry's classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier, Clive Dunn, John Laurie, James Beck, Arnold Ridley and Ian Lavender.

**Play to the Whistle**

9.15pm

Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, as footballer Wilfried Zaha, comedian Funmbi Orotayo and Ninja Warrior UK co-host Rochelle Humes join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh, along with regular panellist Romesh Ranganathan.

**Homes by the Med**

5.35pm

Charlie Luxton's property showcase arrives on the Côte d'Azur in France, as the latest leg of his Mediterranean tour gets under way in St Tropez. In Les Issambres, he visits a contemporary minimalist house, and in Villefranche-sur-Mer, he stops at a renovated 1960s villa overlooking Cap Ferrat.

**NCIS**

7pm

The first installment of a two-part crossover with NCIS: New Orleans sees the DC team co-operating with their colleagues from the Big Easy to investigate a spate of lethal poisonings on board a New Orleans-to-DC flight. All the evidence seems to point to missing chef Luca.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.
- 10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Gennaro Contaldo and Antonio Carluccio present, as Jamie Oliver faces his food heaven or hell, with chefs Joe Hurd and Anna Jones.
- 11.30 **Mary Berry Cooks.** Recipes for everyday meals and special occasions, beginning with afternoon tea. (R)
- 12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
- 12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to forthcoming matches.
- 12.50 **Saturday Sportday.** Sports round-up.
- 1.00 **Athletics: Diamond League Doha Highlights.** The opening Diamond League event of the season from Qatar.
- 2.00 **Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** Castleford Tigers v Salford Red Devils (Kick-off 2.30pm). Coverage of the sixth-round encounter from Mend-a-Hose Jungle, where the Super League sides face each other.
- 4.30 **Final Score.**
- 5.10 **BBC News.**
- 5.20 **Midlands Today;** Weather.
- 5.25 **Can't Touch This.** An avid boxer and an "old-school b-boy" tackle the giant obstacle course.
- 6.15 **Pointless Celebrities.** Toby Anstis and Jenni Falconer, Janice Long and Bob Harris, Peter White and Steve Punt, and Angie Greaves and Steve Penk take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.
- 7.05 **Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** Stand-up star Rob Beckett, Romeo of the Cirque du Soleil, and electro-pop trio Years and Years perform, and Michael hijacks Bruno Tonioli's mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All.
- 8.00 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** A former Miss Ireland and her partner make a list of their dream prizes, then answer questions to try to win their chosen items. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
- 8.50 **Casualty.** New consultant Elle Gardner's first day in the ED proves to be a baptism of fire. Medical drama, starring Jaye Griffiths.
- 9.40 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes goes on a diet after her family's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. (R)
- 10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.
- 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Leicester City v Everton at the King Power Stadium and Norwich City v Manchester United at Carrow Road; **National Lottery Update.**
- 11.55 **Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** This selection includes Peter talks about dogs on ITV's This Morning, out-takes from his recent BBC series Car Share and a clip from Phoenix Nights featuring a horse on the loose. (R)
- 12.25 **FILM: Mad City (1997).** A security guard takes a group of museum-goers hostage to gain his employer's attention, a situation a reporter seeks to exploit. Drama, starring John Travolta.
- 2.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 2.20 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Stoke-on-Trent, Ransgate, Kent, and south Wales. (R)
- 7.00 **MasterChef: The Finals.** The finalists cook for five actresses at the Bristol Old Vic. (R)
- 8.00 **MasterChef: The Finals.** The final four hopefuls face a series of culinary challenges in Mexico. (R)
- 9.00 **MasterChef: The Finals.** The hopefuls cook a three-course meal to be judged by five leading chefs. (R)
- 10.00 **The Women's Football Show.** (R)
- 10.30 **FILM: School for Scoundrels (1960).** Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael.
- 12.00 **The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets.** Si King and Dave Myers demonstrate how to make gourmet food cheaply. (R)
- 1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** The teams head to the Westpoint Arena in Exeter. (R)
- 1.45 **Escape to the Continent.** A Buckinghamshire family hunt for a new home on the island of Malta. (R)
- 2.45 **Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore transforms items reclaimed from a tip. (R)
- 3.30 **Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
- 4.30 **Flog It!** From London Zoo in Regent's Park. (R)
- 5.00 **Bake Off: Crème de la Creme.** Tom Kerridge welcomes six returning contestants for the semi-final. (R)
- 6.00 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don pays a visit to the RHS Malvern Spring Festival, on the lookout for scented plants to take back to Longmeadow. Plus, Carol Klein advises planting up problem places. (R)
- 6.30 **Attenborough's Passion Project: A Blank on the Map.** New series. The BBC marks veteran natural historian David Attenborough's 90th birthday by revisiting four "passion project" films from the vast back catalogue of documentaries.
- 7.30 **Attenborough's Passion Project: The Lost Gods of Easter Island.** A documentary from 2000, in which David Attenborough traces the origins of a mysterious carved figure he bought in New York back to the natives of Easter Island.
- 8.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
- 9.00 **The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses - Henry VI Part I.** New series. The acclaimed adaptation of Shakespeare's historical plays returns. England's defeat in the Hundred Years War divides the court of Henry VI. Starring Tom Sturridge.
- 10.50 **FILM: Zodiac (2007).** Fact-based crime thriller following the hunt for a serial killer who terrorised San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr and Mark Ruffalo.
- 1.20 **FILM: Kicks (2009).** Comedy drama, starring Kerrie Hayes and Nichola Burley.
- 2.40 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.15** Bottom Knocker Street **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Sooty 7.15 Super 4 **7.30** Nerds & Monsters **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go **ITV News.**
- 8.25 **Weekend.** With guests David Haig, Jenny Seagrove and Lisa Maxwell.
- 9.25 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica's reputation is put on the line. (R)
- 10.15 **Murder, She Wrote.** David McCallum guest stars. (R)
- 11.15 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.15 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
- 1.30 **BBCO Champ.** The remaining six contestants face two more challenges. (R)
- 2.30 **FILM: Despicable Me (2010).** An evil genius adopts three orphans to aid his latest plot, but fatherhood brings out his long-buried caring side. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell and Jason Segel.
- 4.30 **The Wine Show.** Matthew Goode and Matthew Rhys visit the Vatican.
- 5.30 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 5.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.00 **You've Been Framed! Finest.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires and a teenager who finds a cockroach in his dinner.
- 7.00 **Bang on the Money.** Game show in which two teams from Essex and Newcastle aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges.
- 8.00 **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec introduce the talent show's fifth round of auditions, as more would-be stars hope to win the approval of Amanda Holden, Simon Cowell, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon.
- 9.15 **Play to the Whistle.** Crystal Palace footballer Wilfried Zaha, comedian Funmbi Orotayo and Ninja Warrior UK co-host Rochelle Humes join Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh for the sports-based comedy show.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.15 **FILM: Body of Lies (2008).** A CIA agent pursuing a terrorist is caught between allegiance to his superior and the local intelligence chief. Ridley Scott's thriller, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe.
- 12.35 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
- 3.00 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica helps her accountant nephew Grady investigate the mysterious death of his boss and deal with a "ghost" haunting his office building. (R)
- 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

- 6.10 **The King of Queens.** Carrie discovers how lonely Spence is. (R)
- 6.35 **Cycling: Cycle Classic.** Action from the 179km race.
- 7.30 **Motor Sport: British GT.** Round two from Rockingham.
- 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert ruins the wedding invitations. (R)
- 8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray encounters an old enemy. (R)
- 9.00 **The Morning Line.** Ascot preview.
- 10.00 **Frasier.** A new radio personality becomes the talk of the town. (R)
- 10.30 **Frasier.** Bulldog has a brush with fame. (R)
- 11.00 **The Superhumans Show.** Paralympics magazine show.
- 11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Penny discuss their future together. (R)
- 12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Amy travel to Arizona to pick up Sheldon. (R)
- 12.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard is asked to throw the first pitch at a baseball game. (R)
- 12.55 **Come Dine with Me.** Four amateur chefs from north Hertfordshire compete. (R)
- 2.00 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park.
- 4.30 **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** A couple from north Wales seek a home on Spain's Costa Blanca for £125,000.
- 5.35 **Homes by the Med.** Charlie Luxton visits a contemporary minimalist home in Les Issambres, France.
- 6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales follow the ancient routes of the Vikings and visit Stockholm before they head out into the far-flung islands of the archipelago. (R)
- 8.00 **Coastal Walks with My Dog.** Celebrities embark on more jaunts with their dogs, as Phil Spencer visits the White Cliffs of Dover, and Angela Griffin explores the coast around Whitby in North Yorkshire.
- 9.00 **FILM: Prometheus (2012).** A spacecraft travels to another world in search of aliens that may have created the human race. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender.
- 11.25 **FILM: Alien (1979).** A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Ian Holm and John Hurt.
- 1.40 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. After a DNA test, Simone and Louis come face-to-face with their long-lost daughter, while Freddie continues to support Joe, who is not coping. (R)
- 3.45 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** Creating a fun bedroom for two girls. (R)
- 4.00 **Location, Location, Location.** Helping house-hunters in Kent. (R)
- 4.55 **Four Rooms.** Items include Buddhist scrolls and Lord of the Rings first editions. (R)
- 5.50 **The King of Queens.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake! Peppa Pig 6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Tictoc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Pets **7.10** Noddy in Toyland **7.25** Paw Patrol **8.05** Little Princess **7.50** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Wanda and the Alien **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.**
- 9.30 **The Saturday Show Live.**
- 11.40 **Funnies Fails, Falls & Flops.** (R)
- 12.10 **Police Interceptors.** A van thief takes a disastrous wrong turn. (R)
- 1.05 **Police Interceptors.** An officer has an early morning encounter with a drunk driver. (R)
- 2.05 **Police Interceptors.** A petrol thief's stealing spree comes to a halt. (R)
- 3.00 **Police Interceptors.** Craggy has an early morning encounter with a polecat. (R)
- 4.00 **Police Interceptors.** Officers descend on a hotel to arrest members of a gang. (R)
- 5.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An eviction proves to be the most confrontational case two agents have ever faced. (R)
- 6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Stewart and Elmore are met with lies and aggression when they track down nearly £3,000, while Paul and Steve chase £30,000 owed by a world-famous Formula One racing team. (R)
- 7.00 **NCIS.** The first installment of a two-part crossover with NCIS: New Orleans, in which the DC team co-operators with their Louisiana counterparts to catch a poisoner.
- 8.00 **NCIS: New Orleans.** The final part of a crossover with the original NCIS series. Ellie Bishop flies to New Orleans to help Pride track down the person responsible for the aircraft murders. (R)
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the top matches from the final day of the Championship season.
- 10.00 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of all the goals from the final day of the season in League Two. Plus, a look at all the talking points and the latest league tables.
- 10.30 **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** McGee kills an undercover police officer while on duty, and Jenny's approval of an investigation into the death places a strain on her relationship with Gibbs. (R)
- 11.20 **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Tony and Ziva disappear while looking for smuggled weapons at a shipyard, leaving the rest of the team struggling to find them before they come to serious harm. (R)
- 12.15 **SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 **Now That's Funny!** (R)
- 4.00 **The Tube: Going Underground.** (R)
- 4.50 **Divine Designs.** (R)
- 5.20 **HouseBusters.** (R)
- 5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
- 5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

**Countryfile**

6pm

Matt Baker visits the Dartington Hall Estate in South Devon, where ice cream is made from goat's milk and vertical farming projects are carried out. Anita Rani investigates sheepskin and handmade soap, Adam Henson meets livestock bred for conservation. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**Flog It!**

6.30pm

In this edition, Paul Martin, Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey head to National Museum Cardiff, where valuable finds include a set of Swansea porcelain plates and a child's tea set. The presenter also visits Caerphilly Castle, and discovers what makes the fortress so unique in design.

**The Chase Celebrity Special**

6.55pm

Bradley Walsh presents as Westlife's Nicky Byrne, Olympian Amy Williams, Natalie Cassidy (*EastEnders'* Sonia Jackson) and Dave Myers of *The Hairy Bikers* pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds.

**Indian Summers**

9pm

Charlie discovers the truth about his wife's affair, and in spite of Alice's efforts to stop him, sets events in motion to have Aafrin hanged. Ralph witnesses the end of his ambitions as the new viceroy is announced, and begins to realise that the people have been conspiring behind his back.

**The Fifth Element**

3.35pm

In the 23rd century, the world faces destruction from a unstoppable force of pure evil. Meanwhile, a cab driver encounters a mysterious woman destined to save the Earth from its fate, and has to protect her from an arms dealer and alien mercenaries. Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Leicester City v Everton at the King Power Stadium and Norwich City v Manchester United at Carrow Road. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents a debate on whether the people of the UK should be proud of the history of the British empire from the Oasis Academy MediaCity, Salford.
- 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 MasterChef: The Finals.** The search for the next champion reaches its climax, as the remaining three amateur cooks produce the three courses they hope will secure them the title. Last in the series. (R)
- 1.15 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.30 Bargain Hunt.** From Barnard Castle, near Darlington. (R)
- 2.00 Escape to the Country.** Properties near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire. (R)
- 2.45 Invictus: The Road to the Games.** The stories of armed forces personnel hoping to compete in the multi-sport event. (R)
- 3.45 Points of View.**
- 4.00 Songs of Praise.** Marking the centenaries of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising.
- 4.35 Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur.** Uncovering the remains of the largest known dinosaur. (R)
- 5.35 BBC News.**
- 5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker visits the Dartington Hall Estate in South Devon. Plus, coverage of the Food and Farming Awards and the announcement of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 7.00 Attenborough at 90.** Kirsty Young talks to David Attenborough about his life and career. Featuring footage from his many natural history programmes and contributions from colleagues and friends.
- 8.00 House of Fraser British Academy Television Awards 2016.** Graham Norton hosts the awards show from London's Royal Festival Hall. Programmes in the running for awards include Wolf Hall, Humans, Adele at the BBC and First Dates.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton and Liverpool v Watford.
- 11.45 FILM: Smart People (2008).** A misanthropic professor's self-absorption threatens his faltering relationship with a former student. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid, Ellen Page and Thomas Haden Church.
- 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.20 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge.** The remaining designers compete at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire. (R)
- 7.15 This Farming Life.** John hires extra help for the lambing season. (R)
- 8.15 Gardeners' World.** A visit to the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. (R)
- 8.45 The Beechgrove Garden.** The presenters sow different seed mixes.
- 9.15 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison discovers the story of a famous conservationist in Dorset. (R)
- 10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
- 11.45 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure.** Dave Myers and Si King visit beaches and mountains in Thailand. (R)
- 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
- 1.00 Rowing.** Live from the European Championships.
- 2.00 Equestrian: Badminton Horse Trials.** Clare Balding presents action from the three-day eventing competition from Gloucestershire.
- 4.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** St Helens v Hull FC (Kick-off 4.30pm). Tanya Arnold presents coverage of the sixth-round encounter from Langtree Park, where the Super League sides face each other.
- 6.30 Flog It!** Paul Martin, Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey head to National Museum Cardiff, where valuable finds include a set of Swansea porcelain plates and a child's tea set. (R)
- 7.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF.** Documentary following the Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatics display team, through a summer display season, including an ambitious performance over Buckingham Palace. (R)
- 8.00 Burma's Secret Jungle War with Joe Simpson.** Part one of two. The mountaineer travels to Burma to tell the story of a guerilla campaign fought behind Japanese lines in the Second World War, which his own father was a part of.
- 9.00 Hillsborough.** Documentary recounting the tragic events of the 1989 stadium disaster in which 96 people were killed, featuring the personal accounts of survivors and family members.
- 11.00 FILM: Robot & Frank (2012).** An elderly thief is bought a robot carer by his son, and teaches the machine to help him carry out one last heist. Sci-fi comedy drama, starring Frank Langella and James Marsden.
- 12.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison visits Dorset's South Haven Peninsula, and discovers the story of 1930s conservationist Cyril Diver, who performed a groundbreaking survey of the area's ecosystem. (R)
- 1.20 Sign Zone: Hobly City.** Bernie is shocked when her estranged husband turns up at work and she battles to keep her adultery a secret, while new nurse Naomi Palmer makes an instant impression on Fletcher. (R)
- 2.15 This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.15** Bottom Knocker Street **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Sooty 7.15 Super 4 **7.30** Nerds & Monsters **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show **8.00** Teen Titans Go!
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Weekend.** With guests Jean Michel Jarre, Lisa Riley and Iain Stirling.
- 9.25 Griff's Great Britain.** Griff Rhys Jones explores types of British terrain, beginning in the South Downs. (R)
- 10.00 Peston on Sunday.** New series. Political magazine.
- 11.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.05 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 2.15 Fierce.** Steve Backshall heads to Mexico where he meets a two-metre long rattlesnake. (R)
- 3.20 Britain's Got Talent.** The talent show's fifth round of auditions. (R)
- 4.30 Midsomer Murders.** A farmer is found dead in Midsomer Mow. (R)
- 6.30 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 6.45 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.55 The Chase Celebrity Special.** Nicky Byrne, Amy Williams, Natalie Cassidy and Dave Myers answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
- 8.00 The Durrells.** The family prepares for a celebration, and Margo is determined to persuade the Countess to attend. Gerry considers releasing his animals into the wild. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Home Fires.** The village prepares for Nick and Teresa's wedding as the Battle of Britain draws to an end, while Pat has a decision to make as Marek prepares to leave. Last in the series.
- 10.05 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.20 Her Majesty's Prison: Norwich.** Documentary detailing the harsh realities of prison life at HMP Norwich, which houses more than 750 adult inmates and young offenders. (R)
- 11.20 Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 22nd and final round of regular-season fixtures, including Bath v Leicester Tigers, Newcastle Falcons v Sale Sharks, and Wasps v London Irish.
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Brands Hatch, featuring the latest races in the Renault UK Clio Cup and Porsche Carrera Cup. Commentary by Richard John Neil.
- 3.55 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from the second round of the season at Oulton Park.
- 4.45 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** A neighbour's dog keeps Doug awake. (R)
- 6.40 The King of Queens.** Carrie asks Doug to ignore her birthday. (R)
- 7.05 The King of Queens.** Doug plans a Valentine's Day meal. (R)
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra wonders how Ray would cope if she died. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra throws a bridal shower for Amy. (R)
- 8.25 IPC Swimming European Championships 2016.** Action from Funchal, Portugal.
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests John Barrowman and Clara Amfo.
- 12.30 The Simpsons.** The family recalls stories about disasters at sea. (R)
- 1.00 The Simpsons.** With the voice of Frances McDormand. (R)
- 1.35 The Simpsons.** The town's graveyard is moved. (R)
- 2.05 FILM: Lilo & Stitch (2002).** Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase.
- 3.50 FILM: The Rescuers (1977).** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Eva Gabor.
- 5.25 The Tiny Tots Talent Agency.** Examining the changing face of the children's talent industry. Last in the series.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 The World's Most Famous Train.** Documentary following the lives of staff and passengers on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express as the train makes its way through Europe. (R)
- 8.00 Paul Merton's Secret Stations.** The comedian's tour of request stop railway stations takes him to a Welsh town famous for weddings, where he helps a bride to choose a dress and sings with a male voice choir.
- 9.00 Indian Summers.** Charlie discovers his wife's affair, and makes plans to have Aafrin hanged for treason. The new viceroy is announced, and Ralph realises he has been the victim of a conspiracy.
- 10.00 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
- 11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Vic Reeves and Sara Pascoe joining team captains Sean Lock and Lee Mack. (R)
- 12.10 FILM: Extract (2010).** Comedy, starring Jason Bateman, Mila Kunis and Kristen Wiig.
- 1.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 2.15 Come Dine with Me.** Andie Todd hosts the second party in Southend-on-Sea. (R)
- 3.45 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 4.05 Location, Location, Location.** Helping prospective buyers in Wiltshire. (R)
- 5.00 Four Rooms.** Items include a rare printer's chest. (R)
- 5.55 The King of Queens.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Ticker Toc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Pets **7.10** Noddy in Toyland **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.40** Little Princess **7.50** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Wanda and the Alien **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus **9.10** Jelly Jamm **9.30** LazyTown
- 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** An alien is found lurking in the sewers.
- 10.30 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship. (R)
- 11.30 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of all the goals from the final day of the season in League Two. (R)
- 12.00 The Gadget Show.** From the annual Gadget Show: Live! event. (R)
- 1.00 The Secret Life of Puppies.** Conclusion of the two-part documentary as the puppies join their human families. (R)
- 2.00 FILM: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994).** Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.
- 3.35 FILM: The Fifth Element (1997).** Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis.
- 5.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 6.00 FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991).** An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for language.
- 9.00 Greatest Ever 90s Movies.** A countdown of famous films from the last decade of the 20th century.
- 11.50 Goal Rush: League One – The Final Day.** A round-up of all the goals from the final day of the season in League One. Plus, a look at all the talking points and the latest league tables.
- 12.35 FILM: Reservoir Dogs (1992).** A failed robbery ends in a bloodbath, and as the criminals lie low they try to work out whether someone betrayed them. Quentin Tarantino's thriller, with Harvey Keitel and Tim Roth.
- 2.20 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 4.00 Great Scientists.** Allan Chapman discusses Isaac Newton's revolutionary theories about light, colour and gravity, which postulated that the universe is governed by one set of mathematical laws. (R)
- 4.25 Great Scientists.** The life and legacy of Charles Darwin, one of the most controversial scientists of all time, whose theory of evolution caused a storm in Victorian society. (R)
- 4.50 Great Artists.** A profile of English painter JMW Turner, who divided critics with his tendency toward abstraction, but is now hailed as a genius. (R)
- 5.20 Divine Designs.** Paul Binski chronicles the history of Britain's religious art. (R)
- 5.45 Angels of Jarm.** Angel Rafa teaches Wendy that some things happen for a reason. (R)
- 5.50 Angels of Jarm.** (R)



Tanwen Davies, four, from Aberystwyth took part in the event



Trouble brews during the historical re-enactment at Whittington Castle



A member of the Historia Normannis group

Norman invasion

Report by James Pugh

ABOUT 300 medieval-mad history buffs took up residence at a castle as part of a three-day extravaganza of all things Norman.

The huge re-enactment event took place at Whittington Castle near Oswestry, included weapon displays, a medieval village and pitched battles.

Members of Historia Normannis, which is a group of enthusiastic re-enactors who have featured in TV's programme Weekend Warriors, invaded the castle to recreate the rebellion of Fulk Fitzwarin against King John.

The rebellion was sparked by Fitzwarin's claim to the castle being ignored by the King - whose father Henry II had promised to Fulk.

The Norman rebels gathered for a confrontation which included a siege engine, skirmishes and a large battle.

The rebellion of the young Fitzwarin against King John is a true story. Eventually Fitzwarin was outlawed by the King and took to the forest with his brothers, prompting some to speculate that Fulk was the real Robin Hood.

Sue Ellis, castle manager, said the event went really well and there were about 300 Normans attending the re-enactment. She added: "Various things go on throughout the day and there is a major final battle in the afternoon. This is then repeated each day."

"This is our major event and this group comes at the same time each year. We usually have about 500 to 600 people come to the event."

"We also have quite a few re-enactments put on by other groups throughout the year."

"Historia Normannis is the largest medieval group in the country and they are excellent."

The event also featured re-enactment stalls, a Viking tent, gift stall and tombola.



Traditional crafts were demonstrated by group members. Photos: Jamie Ricketts.



Alasdair Robottom from Birmingham looks ready for action



There were weapon displays during the event at Whittington Castle



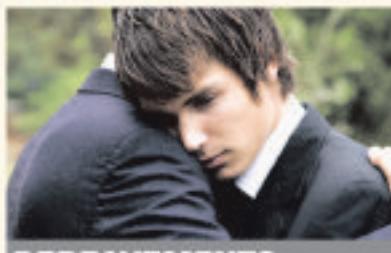
There were many colourful costumes on display



The Normans set up camp at Whittington Castle during the re-enactment weekend

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CAWDELL

Kath

Of Shrewsbury, formerly at Milton Road, Luton and Bumhill Close, Dunstable, passed away on April 24, 2016. Beloved Wife of the late Len and a loving and much loved Mum to Barry and Lesley, a cherished Nanna and Great-Nanna.

The Funeral Service will take place in Emstrey Crematorium, London Road, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 10.45am.

Family flowers only please. There will be a retiring collection.

All inquiries please to

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COWARD

John

Beloved Husband of Jane and a loving and much loved Father to Nic and Rachael and Father-in-law to Vivien and Wayne. A cherished Gumpy to Ella, Innes, Imogen and Lachlan.

Chairman of the Furrows Group and committed volunteer in the Community.

John passed away at home on April 25, 2016, following a long illness he was confroneted with dignity and humour.

The Funeral Service will take place in St Giles Church, Wenlock Road, Shrewsbury, on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 1.30pm, followed by a private Family Committal.

Family flowers only please. Donations will be shared between The Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust and The British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
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Shrewsbury.
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GRIVELL

Kelvin

(Rip)

Beloved Husband of Jill, loving and much loved Dad to Melanie, Ian and Ross; Carol and Elaine, cherished 'Yif' to Luke, Ruth and Ewan. For many years at The Sentinel, Kelvin passed away in Jubilee House, Astley.

The Funeral Service will take place on Monday, May 9, in Emstrey Crematorium, London Road, Shrewsbury, at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only please. Donations will assist the Jubilee Villa Patients Comforts Fund.

All inquiries please to

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LAWTON

Denis

(Bonny Lad)

Ex DLI, 3LI and 5LI.

Of Oswestry.

Passed away suddenly at home on April 20, 2016, aged 71 years.

Beloved Husband of Carol.

Sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Thursday, May 5, at 4.15pm.

Family flowers only but donations if desired to Help for Heroes.

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Suzuki bring back Baleno

The name Baleno is not a new one for Suzuki. The Japanese marque introduced its original Baleno back in 1995 as a bigger brother to the Swift supermini.

Underneath the three-door hatchback, four-door saloon or estate bodyshell was a stretched Swift platform with certain engines shared. Although it was axed way back in 2002 and not exactly missed, Suzuki have still decided to resurrect the name.

In a way, it's quite fitting. Although the new car is undoubtedly more interesting to look at than its predecessor, it offers much of the same. The key selling points are a competitive price and plenty of space inside for both passengers and their luggage. Like the original, it does this by being noticeably larger than the Swift and therefore other vehicles within the supermini class. Unlike the Nineties version, there's plenty of new componentry that makes the new Baleno a serious competitor in the supermini segment.

There are a couple of engine options in the Baleno; Suzuki's existing 1.2-litre 'DUALJET' four cylinder engine with 90PS or a new 'BOOSTERJET' 1.0-litre three cylinder powerplant with 112PS. The 1.2-litre option comes with a mild hybrid system that uses a combined starter and generator to harvest electrical energy when the Baleno slows. Not only can this charge the battery and start the engine, it can also add additional power when pulling away from a standstill. This promises to bring a useful improvement in both economy and emissions.

As you may have guessed from the name, 'BOOSTERJET' motor is yet another

other downsized turbocharged powerplant. While it may lack the hybrid system of the 1.2, clever management of the turbocharger means it shouldn't be too far behind, even though it will offer significantly more performance. While Suzuki do talk of 'superior driving performance', the Baleno is unlikely to be set up for broad blasting.

With the Swift such a fun little car, the focus will be very much on ride comfort and refinement to ensure the Baleno appeals to a very different audience.

Compared to the Swift, the Baleno is longer, wider yet lower. This gives it a much less upright look. Up front there's a bold grille with a large Suzuki 'S' logo while the rear is not quite as adventurous.

Equipment

Expect trim levels to be similar to the Swift. That means SZ2 through to SZ4, although we doubt there's going to be a Sport version. Depending on the model you select, available equipment includes daytime LED running lights, climate control, alloy wheels and of course electric windows.

Those that must have the latest infotainment system will be interested in the 7" touchscreen system that is Apple CarPlay compatible via a USB lead. There's no mention of Android Auto but the system does offer MirrorLink so you can display your apps on the touchscreen.

Further highlights include an adaptive cruise control system that can alter the car's speed to suit traffic and autonomous braking too. This is a three stage system that works by alerting the driver, increasing braking force if they are already in use and applying the brakes if the middle pedal hasn't been touched. Other safety features include ABS,



Key selling points are a competitive price and plenty of space inside for both passengers and their luggage

six airbags, traction and stability control. Official figures are yet to be released but Suzuki are claiming the 1.2-litre mild hybrid should have carbon emissions of around 93g/km. Fuel economy has not been mentioned but should be competitive given the amount of carbon the Baleno looks likely to emit.

This of course means free tax while features such as autonomous braking should mean insurance is low too. As for the war-

ranty, this is a typical 3 year, 60,000 mile affair.

Some might think it a little odd that Suzuki seems to be competing with themselves by releasing a second car in the B segment supermini class. The truth of the matter is that the Swift and Baleno are different enough to ensure they are unlikely to steal sales from each other. While the Swift is a funky little city car, the Baleno is that little bit bigger and more mature.

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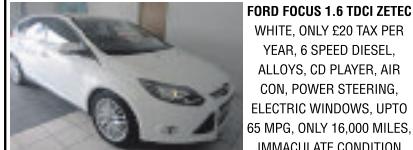
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Call for mandatory fines for illegal tyres

Tyre manufacturer Bridgestone is urging the Government to follow Ireland's lead in implementing mandatory fines on motorists who drive with defective or worn tyres, in the interests of road safety.

The Irish minister for transport, tourism and sport, Paschal Donohoe announced recently the new Fixed Charge Notice offence for motorists, with fines of €80 now in effect.

While there are penalties in place in the UK for driving on illegal tyres, including three points and a maximum £2,500 fine per tyre, it is only seen as a summary offence and not mandatory, with all charges needing legal prosecution and very few being enforced.

Bridgestone believes that a fixed fine will promote greater awareness amongst motorists of the hazards of driving with tyres that are not in roadworthy condition.

Managing director Robin Shaw believed that the measure would not only improve road safety and awareness, but could also generate funds to be reinvested into general road safety.

"Because tyres are the only contact points between a car and the road, their condition plays a huge factor in overall road safety. There are literally millions of tyres on our roads which are illegal and pose a danger to other motorists' lives. We think a fixed charge notice would keep the issue firmly in people's minds, whilst encouraging everyone to take some simple tyre safety checks which literally take seconds to carry out."

A survey undertaken by TyreSafe in partnership with Highways England of the tread depth of tyres at the point

of replacement, from February to May 2015, showed that more than a quarter of all drivers had an illegal tyre on their vehicle, suggesting that potentially 10 million tyres on the roads of England, Scotland and Wales were dangerous and illegal last

That figure equates to potentially up to one in every four cars and vans of the 35.3 million vehicles on Britain's roads having an illegal tyre at some point during the year.

TyreSafe also revealed that there were 15,000 tyre-related convictions over the past three years. Comparing an annual conviction figure of around 5,000 to around 10 million illegal tyres identified in the organisation's tread depth survey, the proportion of drivers prosecuted stands at around 0.0005 per cent.

Robin added: "If a fixed fine, as is the case in Ireland, results in motorists checking their tyres and replacing as necessary, then it can only be a good thing. The average stopping distance of a new tyre with 8mm tread depth is around 26 metres compared to around 38 metres on a worn tyre at 1.6mm tread depth. So it can literally be a matter of life and death."

A quick and easy way to see if a tyre tread exceeds the minimum legal tread depth is to take the 20p test said Robin.

Simply place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of your tyre. If the outer band of the 20p coin is obscured when it is inserted, then your tread is above the legal limit. If the outer band of the coin is visible, then your tyres may be illegal and unsafe and should be checked immediately by a qualified tyre professional.

"When taking the test, remember to check at least three locations around each tyre. As the test is so quick and easy, stay safe by checking your tyres at least once a month."

Corsa red edition likeable



Describing the Vauxhall Corsa Red Edition as a 'likeable choice' does the car proud, say award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthur's who have branches in Oswestry and Newtown.

"Drivers testing Corsa Red Edition are generous in their appreciation of Corsa Red Edition's comfort, refinement and restrained warm hatch which is likened to a

brisk supermini," said Matt Hine, Arthur's of Oswestry sales manager.

"Press reviews of the model point to it being one of the smoothest riding warm hatches around with wind and wind noise kept well in check.

"Underneath the racy red skin lies the same 148bhp 1.4 litre turbocharged petrol engine which is found in the Adam S," said Matt.

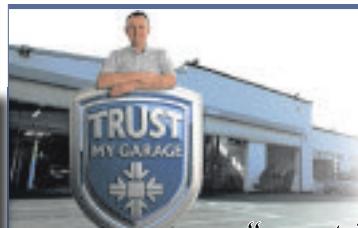
"It is highly regarded as smooth, refined and punchy. The brand has also

thrown in a gloss black roof, black mirror surrounds, a bodykit and new 17 inch alloys.

Inside, the Red is broadly the same as the regular three door Corsa apart from some red detailing on the dashboard.

"It's all fairly robust and it is felt that the piano-black panel across the dash gives the Corsa a more premium feel. The steering is regarded as direct and well weighted.

"A Black Edition is also available," Matt added.



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50 MAZDA 3 TURBO LTD Edition, blue metallic, 49k

50 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic

50 PEUGEOT 207 MILLSEM, black, 35,000 miles, FSH

01 BMW 318 Saloon, lots of history, previously supplied by us

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59 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM Diesel, Dark Grey

59 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM Diesel, Dark Grey

50 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI, Black, 6k

50 STREET KA Blue Convertible

50 CITROEN C3 PLURIÈVE 1.4 Convertible

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Motoring



Skoda scoring well with drivers

SKODA's models continue to drive home their reliability, quality, cost, practicality and comfort credentials in the annual Auto Express Driver Power survey.

The 2016 questionnaire received more than 49,000 responses, covering 32 manufacturers and 183 models, with Skoda models featuring heavily in the top 25 overall positions. Along with a number of wins and podium places in various classes and categories, the brand was voted third best in the UK to own, improving on last year's result with an overall score of 90.45 per cent.

Central to the manufacturer's success was its best-selling Octavia model which triumphed in the Compact

Family Car class. The 1st place category result, which was also the 7th most highly-rated car overall, saw the family model, with prices starting from £16,515, record a score of 92.52 per cent.

Owners were particularly impressed with the model's practicality, cementing 3rd place in this specific category, confirming its usefulness as a tool for transporting families safely, in comfort and with space to spare. They also recommended its in-car tech (9th overall) and praised its low running costs, reliability and performance.

Praise for Skoda continued in the Supermini class with two models featuring in the top 5 positions; the Citigo placing second and the Fabia posting

a 4th place finish. With a 91.94 per cent rating the smallest car in the Skoda range finished 11th in the whole survey, and the slightly larger Fabia returned a score of 91.29 per cent for a 22nd place result.

Another silver medal was awarded to the previous generation Skoda Superb, which beat 163 other vehicles to finish 2nd in the Family Car category with a score of 91.46 per cent. And the venerable Yeti continued the brand's trend for high scores, thanks to its 91.58 per cent rating in the toughly contested Offroad/SUV category and 16th overall placement.

The Skoda range starts at £8,275 for the Citigo supermini. For more information, visit www.skoda.co.uk

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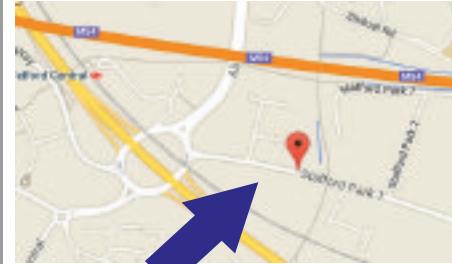
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How they stand

English Rugby Clubs

National League 2 North	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Macclesfield ...	29	25	0	4	907	507	123
Sedgley Park ...	29	20	0	9	898	556	103
Leicester Lions ...	30	19	0	10	995	486	103
Stourbridge ...	29	20	1	11	826	530	89
Caledonian ...	30	19	2	1	816	547	97
Harrogate ...	28	16	0	12	606	552	77
Luctonians ...	29	14	2	13	614	690	73
Otter ...	30	14	2	16	584	644	73
Preston G'hop ...	30	12	3	15	591	627	68
Tynedale ...	12	12	0	17	659	746	68
Queensbury ...	29	10	0	9	833	403	108
Hinckley ...	28	22	1	1	790	443	91
Old Hales ...	26	18	0	8	630	408	91
Pborough Lns ...	26	15	0	11	593	462	69
Nuneaton ...	26	14	0	12	573	462	69
Syston ...	26	13	0	13	538	562	67
Hilsea Goldhill ...	26	13	0	13	590	519	67
Longton ...	28	13	0	13	584	572	67
Bromsgrove ...	26	12	0	14	559	570	69
Sandbach ...	26	11	0	15	546	591	73
Lichfield ...	26	9	0	17	600	683	55
Old N'tonians ...	26	9	0	17	498	702	38
N'port, Salop ...	26	8	0	18	451	738	29
Sutton Coldfield ...	26	7	0	19	201	187	18

National League 3 Midlands

National League 3 Midlands	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Fusion ...	14	14	0	0	458	230	70
Carromore Crus ...	14	9	4	5	332	227	52
RAF Shrewsbury ...	14	8	0	5	126	89	52
Eagles ...	14	7	0	6	279	244	46
Sky Blues ...	14	8	6	0	328	300	46
Jokers ...	14	6	8	0	292	296	39
Phoenix ...	14	2	12	0	164	355	15
Volts ...	14	10	3	1	188	392	11

Davenports Brewery Ironbridge Darts League

Davenports Brewery Ironbridge Darts League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bullseye ...	7	7	0	0	46	10	14
Unicorn B ...	7	6	0	1	41	15	12
6 Bells A ...	5	5	0	3	32	12	15
T Joy ...	6	4	0	2	32	15	8
WHFR A ...	6	4	0	2	31	17	8
Monkmoor ...	6	4	0	2	30	17	8
WHFR B ...	7	2	0	5	21	35	4
Unicorn A ...	6	2	0	4	11	36	7
Albion ...	6	1	1	4	18	32	3
Coalbrookdale ...	6	0	0	6	9	39	0
6 Bells B ...	7	0	0	7	4	51	0

Marston's Newport & District Pool League

Marston's Newport & District Pool League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stag Mid Dray ...	23	22	0	1	115	23	44
Newport Legion ...	19	1	3	10	35	39	35
H'suckle Harr ...	23	15	4	3	88	44	34
King's Head A ...	24	14	4	6	88	58	32
Royal Navy Club2 ...	2	3	18	3	33	105	15
Shakespeare ...	23	1	2	20	107	45	4
Horn Pheasant, WWHFC, K Head B ...							
W'head and RN club deducted two points							

Marston's Newport & District Pool League

Marston's Newport & District Pool League	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
W'head and RN club deducted two points							
Barberdashes ...	23	6	4	13	78	78	42
King's Head B ...	23	3	6	13	56	87	105
Horn Pheasant ...	22	3	4	5	39	94	8
Royal Navy Club2 ...	2	3	18	3	33	105	15
Shakespeare ...	23	0	2	16	14	34	2
Horn Pheasant, WWHFC, K Head B ...							
*Horn Pheasant, WWHFC, K Head B ...							

Midlands 1 West

Midlands 1 West	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bridgnorth ...	26	21	0	3	714	348	60
Bournville ...	26	18	0	8	837	608	92
S'tford U Avon ...	26	18	0	8	742	495	81
Heronfield ...	26	17	0	8	822	442	81
Worcester Wanderers ...	26	12	0	10	595	481	81
Whitchurch ...	26	11	0	10	539	446	81
Walsall ...	26	4	0	22	915	293	81

Midlands 2 West North

Midlands 2 West North	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moseley Oak ...	22	9	0	13	99	223	60
Canby Hill ...	22	16	0	6	706	429	15
Old Salfords ...	22	16	0	6	698	304	15
Kidderminster ...	22	16	0	6	644	264	15
S'bridge Lns ...	22	11	0	11	570	486	51
Stafford ...	22	12	0	10	367	477	50
Old Yardlains ...	22	8	0	14	457	499	41
Veseyans ...	22	8	0	13	313	558	38
Shrewsbury ...	22	8	0	13	313	558	38
Hanslope ...	22	3	0	19	217	913	8
Harborne ...	22	1	0	21	217	903	8

Midlands 3 West North

Midlands 3 West North	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
N'castle, Staffs ...	27	17	0	10	377	284	75
Ludlow ...	27	17	0	10	745	422	75
Cleary M ...	27	15	0	10	745	422	75
Clee Hill ...	27	12	0	10	440	446	51
Willenhall ...	27	11	0	11	422	502	51
Edwarclands ...	27	9	1	12	437	477	44
Cannock ...	27	10	0	12	399	545	35
Bunwood ...	27	7	0	15	377	555	35
Wednesbury ...	27	2	1	12	326	546	27
Bloxwich ...	27	1	1	20	249	477	15

Midlands 4 West North

Midlands 4 West North	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Tilstock ...	30	20	0	10	2570	2070	19
Malpas Fmrs A ...	30	23594	0	0	0	0	0
Hammer D ...	30	18545	0	0	0	0	0
Press B ...	30	17535	0	0	0	0	0
Malpas Sps B ...	30	16526	0	0	0	0	0
Protec C ...	30	16526	0	0	0	0	0
Wenbury ...	30	13522	0	0	0	0	0
H'way D ...	29	14	0	1	45	57	0
Calverhall C ...	30	12490	0	0	0	0	0
Hodget B ...	30	10455	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley C ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley D ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley D ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley D ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley D ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0	0
Tilstock A ...	30	16499	0	0	0	0	0
Adderley D ...	20	15390	0	0	0	0	0
Chesters D ...	30	13464	0	0	0	0	0
Press E ...	30	12502	0	0	0	0</	

Black Lion are roaring along at top of the table

KARL Adams and Andrew Jones have made a flier this season as Black Lion to continue to set the pace in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division three.

Adams won to two to cement his place at the top of the averages as unbeaten Lion overcame visiting Llangollen B 8-2 (158-106) to make it three wins out of three.

And team-mate Jones is also going great guns in second place in the averages after winning 21-7, while Chris Lloyd (21-5) was a third single figure winner.

Victory saw Black Lion extend their lead to four points at the top of the table ahead of Chirk B who swept aside basement side WHITTINGTON E 9-1 (56 shots).

GEORGE are third despite suffering their first loss, 7-3 (142-123) at Plas Kynaston A, with Russell Ellis (21-11) the best winner for the visitors.

In division four, WESTON RHYN C are one point clear at the top after their 8-2 (165-119) home success over Llangynog C.

Results

Division two: Criftins C 7 (151) Llangynog A 3 (121). **Division three:** Johnstone's C 8 (154) Fox Lane 5 (145). Plas Kynaston A 1 (116) George 3 (123). Ellesmere A 4 (133) Johnstone's D 6 (139). Black Lion 8 (158) Llangollen B 2 (106). Ruabon B 4 (124) Ceirrog Valley B 6 (128). Chirk B 9 (156) Whittington E 1 (100). **Division four:** Llanrhedr C 7 (159) Cynwyd B 9 (152). Weston Rhyn O 1 (163) Llanrhedr C 2 (119). Llanymynech B 7 (150) Llanrhedr B 3 (114). Llanfair A 4 (117) Church C 6 (132). Ceirrog Valley C 8 (154) Plas Kynaston B 2 (109). Johnstone E 3 (115) Overton B 7 (140). **Division five:** Church D 5 (134) Whittington C 3 (127). Weston Rhyn F 1 (111). Llanrhedr D 6 (149) Conwen B 4 (139). **Division six:** Ponciau Park 7 (140) Church E 3 (116). Pentre Broughton 9 (158) Llanrhedr E 1 (77). Llanfair Park 7 (140) Llanymynech C 3 (123). Cynwyd C 3 (121) Criftins E 7 (148). Llangynog B 7 (149) Weston Rhyn D 3 (102).

Ifton up to fourth after home victory

IFTON moved up to fourth spot in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League as they returned to winning ways with a commanding 10-2 home victory over Wrockwardine Wood.

Kevin Nicholas led the way with a most valuable player performance for his 21-9 victory over Phil Clee to help set up the 72 shots (239-167) success.

Craig Griffiths was the biggest winner for the St Martins side when beating Mark Clayton to five, while Leighton Roberts prevailed to eight in another single figure verdict.

Andrew Hughes and Gerald Williams both won to 11, Nicky Jones to 12 and Dave Rocky Jones to 15.

Making up the 10-point win were Keiron Roberts (21-17), Ian Metcalfe (21-18) and Martin Jones (21-19).

Ifton, who are now five points adrift of leaders Meole Brace and one point off second place, will be looking for a healthy haul of points away to Byley on Friday night.

A marathon effort from Olympians

A GROUP of intrepid Oswestry Olympians have been setting personal bests and personal goals by completing the London and Manchester marathons.

In London, Garry Owens, with his time of 2:59:44, got so very close to surpassing Doug Morris' long standing mark of 2:58:59 (M50 club record) set back in 1985.

Results

London marathon: Peter Butler 2:52:30. Garry Owens 2:59:44. Simon Barkley 3:00:15. Jacki Jarvis 3:49:51. Amy Jones 4:04:47. David Wilson 5:15:48.

Manchester marathon: Tim Tansley 3:07:02. Jude Hughes 3:47:29. Karen Owens 4:28:33.

■ Forden's Andy Davies missed out on his bid to make the British team for the Rio Olympics despite finishing 20th in the London Marathon in a time of two hours 17 minutes and 45 seconds.

Despite an excellent effort, the 36-year-old finished 50 seconds outside his personal best and short of the Olympic qualifying time of 2:14 minutes.

Two red cards in Eagles' last game

Oswestry brought the curtain down on their campaign in the Cheshire South when a changed team slipped to an unsavoury 7-5 loss at Eagles.

Already assured of runners-up spot and a place in the play-offs, the Os side travelled to Warrington to play Eagles whom they had defeated 53-12 at home.

But the hosts were literally up for the fight, having two players red-carded as they resorted to rugged tactics to unsettle their rivals.

Oswestry, themselves, kept their cool despite the provocation, showing admirable self control in hostile conditions with Jon Wills their tryscorer.

They included four colts in the side, Jack Charmley, Jon Wills, Thomas Henry Jones and Fintan Grongan, who all played with distinction and a quality that can only enhance the future of the club and a team so ably led by captain Andrew Smith.

The Lanyard Bowdler man-of-the-match was Josh Tsang, with Oswestry now looking ahead to the play-offs as they bid to gain promotion to the South Lancs and Cheshire One.

Coach Gareth Barrett paid tribute to the team's efforts, and hopes his side can achieve their goal of promotion.

"The discipline the team displayed in very provoking circumstances speaks volumes of their character as not just individuals but as a team," he said.

"I am extremely proud of them all. What was really pleasing was the display of our young colts, their mature attitude was simply first class."

"However we still made some poor decisions in our game that allowed them certain plays and definitely a score that they really should not have had."

"Even so, there was 15 minutes of sheer determination to stop them scoring on our own line that was just brilliant."

Rhyn's win frustrates the early pacesetters

WESTON RHYN, back in the top flight of the Oswestry and District Bowling League, secured their second home win by beating early leaders Johnstown A.

Rhyn shaded the shots 149-142, Shirley Hughes winning 21-12. Victory lifted them off the foot of the division one table.

CHURCH A slipped into the lower reaches after an 8-2 (155-113) loss at Ceirrog Valley A, their replies coming from Steve Lewis (21-13) and Phil Laker (21-16).

Ruabon A moved into pole position on shots after overcoming Overton A 7-3 (153-113) at home.

In division two, CHURCH B had a 6-4, 31-shot home success against previously unbeaten LLANMYNECH A.

Mere Weaver led the way to five and Adrian Pugh won to six. Llan's best were Paula Worden (21-15) and Roger Candlin (21-16).

After three away matches, LLANNRHAEDR A marked their first home outing with an 8-2 (151-122) verdict against Ye Olde Crofte A.

Mel Roberts won to nine for Llan and Tom Roberts to 10, while brothers Gareth and Brian Parry replied 21-12 for the visitors.

Andy Cawthray and Kevin Williams both won to six as WHITTINGTON B ran out 8-2 (50 shots) winners at home to CRIFTINS C.

ELLESmere B whitewashed Bersham 10-0.

Fixtures Tuesday May 10, Div One: Johnstone A v Chirk A, Ruabon A v Llangollen A, Criftins A v Weston Rhyn A, Overton A v Johnstone B, Whittington A v Church A, Corwen A v Ceirrog Valley A. **Div Two:** Bersham v Llanrhedr A, Church B v Whittington B, Llanmynech A v Llangynog A, Ye Olde Crofte A v Flexsys A, Cynwyd A v Criftins B. **Wednesday:** Criftins C v Ellesmere B.

Bowen and Evans win at Welshpool

THERE were wins for Harry Bowen and James Evans in two big qualifying events at Welshpool Golf Club.

The Robin Annison medal scratch play qualifier was won by the informer Bowen (4) with a fine score of net 69 while Evans (25) won the Brandon Smith qualifier with a 93 (68) score. Both go into a matchplay knockout format with the winners finally emerging in August.

Sixtyplayers from Welshpool participated in the first of the Mid Wales Golf Association betterball matches at Penrhos. Leading Welshpool results, with fourth on count-back, was the club captain John Morley and Kevin Salter with 39 points.

Ray Bowen(21) triumphed in the P R Ford Trophy (Seniors) with 35 points. Graham Moss(14) was second with 34 points beating Richie Amyes (28) on countback.

Keith Roberts(19) won Sseniors Golfer Of The Year round with 34 points beating Richie Amyes(28) on count-back. Will Cooke(20) was third with 30 points.

Roberts flies the GB flag in Germany

STEVE ROBERTS cast aside his injury problems as he flew the flag for GB and Oswestry Olympians at the European Duathlon Championships in Kalkar Germany.

Roberts took part in the sprint event of the duathlon which is a combination of running and cycling despite again being hampered by injuries as in previous years.

Despite this, and having to restrict his preparation using a full knee splint, he produced another creditable performance to finish the third Brit in the top 10 which qualifies him for next year's championships.

He finished in eighth spot in the M60-64 with a total time of one hour eight minutes and 47 seconds, after clocking 21.02 in the 5km run, 34.43 in the 20km bike ride and 11.12 in the 2.5km run.

The event was won by Germany's Heinrich Wilmink in 1.01.56.

Oswestry fall short in home run chase

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

IT was not the start they wanted as Oswestry lost their opening Birmingham League division two fixture at Morda Road when going down by 53 runs to Harborne – the team relegated with them last season.

Harborne look certain to be one of the main challengers this season, but Oswestry turned in a fine bowling and fielding performance to restrict the visitors to 217-8 in their 50 overs.

At one stage Harborne seemed on course for nearer 300, but Dan Bowen, Charlie Morris, Warwick Fynn and Mark Robinson each took two wickets as they slowed down the run rate. Tom Payne fell just five short of his century.

Oswestry's cause was not helped by a finger injury to opener Scott Hale, which meant he had to bat down the order.

Fynn's 33 gave them a good start to their innings, but once he was dismissed much rested on skipper Jonathan Miles.

As it turned out Miles batted right through to the innings ended on 164 all out, scoring an unbeaten 38. But he received little support at the other end, as Jonny Davies (24) was the only other player to reach double figures.

"We did really well in the field, but we'll have to bat better if we are to make an impact on this division," said captain Miles.

Oswestry were without university students Robbie Clarke and Joe Carrasco, but they have been given a boost with South African ace Junaid Cassiem set to fly into England this week.

The 22-year-old wicketkeeper will strengthen the batting, and is likely to bat at three or four in the Oswestry order.

He will make his debut in Saturday's trip to old rivals Stourbridge (noon). The second string are at home to Barnet Green (12.30).

OSWESTRY II – who are at home to Barnet Green on Saturday (12.30) – went down by 46 runs in a rain-affected game at Kenilworth Wardens in the 2nd XI League division one. Consistent batting by the home side, led by Tom Brammer's 48, saw them reach 249-5 in 45 overs. Oswestry debutant Simion Corbett took 3-57.

Two rain breaks meant Oswestry were set a revised target of 138 off 23 overs, but they fell short on 92-5. Michael O'Reilly top-scored with 28, and Corbett added 21.

OSWESTRY III's game at Wem on Sunday was abandoned because of rain, while a shortage of players saw Oswestry concede their home game against Lilleshall III.

This weekend, Oswestry III take on Newport III at Morda Road on Sunday, when the fourths visit Whitchurch III.

Silver lining for Olympians duo



Representing Oswestry in the Sportshall Championships Group were Blake Stonehouse, Tom Hotchkiss, Lucy McGlinchey, Massimo Wyatt and Toby Rogers

OSWESTRY Olympian duo Jacob Tidridge and Lucy McGlinchey both secured silver medals after being chosen for the Shropshire team at the West Midlands Regional Championships in Coventry.

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The winners of each regional event are subsequently rewarded with a place at the UK finals.

Competing against very strong opposition, particularly from Birmingham and Warwickshire, the Shropshire under-15 boys team were narrowly pipped to first place by two points, while the under 13 girls team also finished second overall.

The winners of each regional event are subsequently rewarded with a place at the UK finals.

Starting with four lap heats, he easily progressed into the finals where he gained a silver medal in a time of 49.1 seconds.

He followed this with fifth place in the standing long jump with a leap of 2.39m and eighth position in the shot, putting 8.85m.

Three Oswestry athletes were also selected to represent Shropshire at the Under-11s

competition.

Fun in Athletics regional finals in Coventry. Toby Rogers, Tom Hotchkiss and Massimo Wyatt competed against athletes from Birmingham, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire in a series of track and field events and obstacle relays.

Toby came sixth in the chest push with 6m, and was equal eighth in the speed bounce with 49.

Tom was eighth in the standing long jump with a leap of 1.76m, while Massimo Wyatt came seventh in the balance test with 42 seconds, and was eighth in the standing triple jump with 5.38m.

The Shropshire Under-11 boys team finished third overall.

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The winners of each regional event are subsequently rewarded with a place at the UK finals.

The wet weather also disrupted the action elsewhere, with CAE GLAS II also seeing their encounter away to Lilleshall II in the reserve division two abandoned without any play, while MONTGOMERY II and WHITTINGTON were also sidelined by the elements.

FRANKTON saw their premier division clash at Sentinel washed out by the rain after 30 overs to pick up six points.

Put in to bat, Shrewsbury side Sentinel were going well on 208-3 with half centuries from David Laird (58), Joe Yapp (55) and Elliot Hitchen (53no), with Michael Eckard picking up two wickets.

But persistent rain forced an early conclusion to proceedings, leaving Frankton in third spot after two matches.

Bowlers swing it as Monty win again

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

outs did not help the home cause.

Openers Richard Plant (21) and Andrew Lewis (27) then put Castle on course for the win, with Andy Hughes taking 2-7 for the Glaz.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY suffered their second close defeat of the season after going down by 23 runs at early leaders Wroxeter Grove in division one.

Put in to bat, Wroxeter were dismissed for a healthy 220 as they recovered from 64-5 courtesy of 72 from Charlie Haylett, and some useful tail-end contributions from Seb Cooley (39) and Dan Harris (29). Matty Evans (3-26) and Shaun Davies (3-69) were the chief wicket-takers.

Knockin made a good fist of it in reply but lost their last five wickets for 30 runs as they fell short on 197 all out, Gary Darlington top scoring with 38 and Hugh Morris making 32.

Despite a good start, the visitors, while a couple of runs

Llan edged out as title race goes to the wire

DESPITE leading at half-time, Llanfaircaedr were edged out 2-1 at home to title chasing Knighton Town in a thrilling finish to the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Although they were not in the running for the league themselves, Llan still found themselves having a say in the destiny of the league title on a tense last day.

When Wayne Austin game them an interval lead, it looked to be the end of Knighton's title bid, but the Radnor Robins rallied to seal a 2-1 after the break.

That would have been enough to see them take the crown, but Penrhyncoch had other ideas as they became champions courtesy of a dramatic 1-0 victory over Hay St Mary's, with Owain James heading the winner three minutes from time.

Mid-table WATERLOO ROVERS ended with a high scoring 4-4 draw at Machynlleth, while basement side MONTGOMERY went down 3-0 at Llandrindod Wells.

In division two, champions BERRIEW ended a triumphant league campaign with a 4-2 victory at Bettws as they overturned a two-goal deficit in the first half.

Steff Rogers led the fightback with brace, with Jack Lewis and Karl Selsaerts also on the mark to end a memorable league season.

The Rhiewsiders finished 16 points clear, with 25 wins out of 28, and scoring 108 goals in the process.

DYFFRYN BANW wrapped up their fluctuating campaign with a 3-3 draw at home to Newbridge.

Radnor Valley, who had defeated close rivals Kerry 1-0 earlier in the week, sealed runners-up with their 2-1 victory at Borth United.

In the other games, Kerry gave themselves some late cheer despite missing out on promotion with a 5-2 win at lowly Penybont.

Berriew's pursuit of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup came to an end as they slipped to a 3-0 exit in the quarter-final at Caer-

saws. The Rhiewsiders, however, have another chance to taste some cup success on Saturday when they take on Radnor Valley in the final of the ER Jenkins Cup at Llanidloes.

Golf returns

HAWKSTONE PARK

Men's March Stableford Division 1: M Hartington 40pts off 10; R Thomas 38pts off 12; L Molynieux 36pts off 8.

Division 2: M Moorecroft 36pts off 16; M Pierce 32pts off 16; M Shortman 30pts off 23.

Ladies' Gray Cup Winner: M Hughes - Net 77+75=156; K Gleave 79+80=159.

Best Gross: T Goff 81+93=174.

Seniors' Walker Cup Round 1: P Moorcroft 34pts off 15; R Jones; Roberts 33pts off 16; P Hollins 32pts off 20.

Juniors' A Junior Medal: T Bache 102-26=76; T Welch 99-21=78.

HENLINE PARK

Wednesday Night 9 Hole Comp: C Jones 21pts; M Evans 20pts; C Bothwell 19pts.

April Stableford Division 1: J Phillips 40pts (c/b); G Hughes 40pts; J Sutcliffe 39pts.

Division 2: D Thomas 40 pts; G Gill 38pts (c/b); I Harris 38pts.

LLANYMNECH

Ladies' Daily Mail Foursomes: D Davies and S Ord 91-22=69.

Runner Up: T Cook and S Jones 92-17=75.

MILE END

April Stableford Division 1: J Wildblood 36pts; D Thomas 30pts; P Griffiths 35pt.

Division 2: M Pierce 38pts; L Bennett 35pts; S Smith 35pts.

Division 3: K McKay 45pts; C Wildblood 36pts; J Heer 35pts.

Nearest The Pin: J Dean 4ft 6".

Sunday Social Winners: D Bradbury, S Holloway, N Osborne, N Tomkinson 53pts.

Runner Up: J Willett, B Lingard, D Smith 52pts.

Seniors' Captain's Day: P Lee 44pts; R Pugh 40pts; R Rogers 37.

Longest Drive (Under 70s): R Pugh.

Longest Drive (Over 70s): J Cleaton.

Nearst The Pin in Two: P Walton.

Nearst The Pin (7th Hole): J Turner (Hole In One).

Wednesday Social: B Jones 21pts; J Barry 20pts; K Jones 19pts.

OSWESTRY

Ladies' Club Championship Shield Winners (through to Ladies' Knockout stage): V Bradford 79 Gross; G Thorneill 80 Gross; J Thorneill 87 Gross; Hall 94 Gross; M Ratcliffe 95 Gross; W Price 90 Gross; C Johnson 96 Gross; B Bebbington 86 Gross.

EG Medal Silver Division: G Thorneill 80-6-74; J Thorneill 87-75.

Bronze Division: E Moss 100-27-73; K Wallace 98-22-76.

Upper Division: S Weaver 101-32-69;

9 Hole Competition Winner: P James 11pts.

SHREWSBURY

Ladies' Medal: K Thaw 77; M O'Sullivan 81 (c/b); J Evans 81.

Super Saints toast their double treble

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Airbus UK brought 0 The New Saints 2 HOLDERS The New Saints re-wrote the record books as they completed another trophy laden season by lifting the Welsh Cup with victory over Airbus UK in the final at Wrexham's Glyndwr University Stadium.

Goals in each half from Ryan Brobbel and Scott Quigley saw the Saints land the trophy for a third successive season, while in the process they also became the first Welsh Premier side to make it back-to-back trebles.

Victory for the Saints means that third placed Llandudno automatically qualify for Europe in their first season in the league, while Airbus now visit Newtown in the play-off semi-finals on Saturday for the remaining Europa League spot.

TNS were slow to get into their stride in the first half, often finding themselves stifled against well organised opponents who stuck to a game plan.

Airbus threatened on 15 minutes when James Murphy slipped a pass to Tony Gray in the left of the box, the striker's cross was parried by keeper Paul Harrison but Murphy could only put the loose ball wide from an angle.

From enjoying plenty of the game in the first half hour, the Wingmakers were stung when man-of-the-match Brobbel carved an interval lead for the holders.

Before then, TNS' early chances came from distance in a scrappy first half, with Quigley drilling a low shot wide from the edge of the box while Brobbel lashed a 20-yarder over after winger Adrian Cieslewicz had squared.

But the Oswestry high fliers got their noses in front on 33 minutes with their first real opportunity when Brobbel turned smartly to fire in from eight yards after Aeron Edwards had headed on a corner.

That was the first goal that Airbus had conceded in this year's competition following four previous shut-outs, and gave the Saints a timely boost.

Left back Chris Marriott almost added second in another raid when his low drive towards goal was cleared by Mike Pearson as the Saints perked up.

After the interval, Airbus skipper Ian Kearney headed over from a corner on 49 minutes, but his side were up against it once Quigley doubled the margin moments later.

The lively Cieslewicz broke along the right, cut in before seeing his shot deflected into the path for Quigley who, having scored a hat-trick in the semi-final, gleefully smashed home his shot to continue his fine run of scoring in the competition. With their two-goal cushion, the Saints went from strength to strength as they underlined their credentials with an increasingly assured performance.

They threatened on the break with their opponents chasing the game, with Cieslewicz and Quigley both bringing smart saves from keeper James Coates after finding room on the flanks.

Airbus made changes and kept going to the final whistle, with Kearney's low 14-yard strike clutched by keeper Paul Harrison at the right post after the Saints had failed to clear.

Man of the match Ryan Brobbel, who scored the first goal, was delighted to be part of the TNS success story after joining the club this season.

"It's very special for me to win the Welsh Cup, and to score in the final makes it extra special," he said.

Trophy treble for FC Oswestry



Trophy time – the Town players with the silverware and (below) skipper Ollie Jones challenging



FC OSWESTRY Town made it a hat-trick of silverware after lifting the Mercian Regional League premier division cup with a 5-1 beating of Allscott in the final at Telford's Bucks Head.

Having already wrapped up the premier division title and the Commander Ethelston Cup, Town continued their triumphant campaign against a strong side that had pushed them for league honours.

Allscott controlled the first half with some hard work and neat passing, with Town's back line of Elliot Howes, Al Morris, Rob Shone and Jordy Gerrard kept busy in heavy conditions.

However, after soaking up a fair amount of pressure, it was Nick Maguire's men who took the lead on 27 minutes when Elliott Howes found top scorer Chris Bishop who fired home through Telford's Bucks Head.

Having already wrapped up the premier division title and the Commander Ethelston Cup, Town continued their triumphant campaign against a strong side that had pushed them for league honours.

And a key moment came on 65 minutes when the Allscott keeper was given his marching orders for an off-the-ball incident, leaving the door open for Town which they duly exploited.

They doubled their lead with a fine finish from Bishop with an assist from Harris, before Allscott pulled one back through a deflected free kick.

Town were not to be denied, though, and went straight down the other end to restore their two-goal cushion with a fine goal from Harris.

Shortly after, Harris again provided the assist for Bishop to net his hat-trick before Bishop bagged his fourth after being set up by Guillford with two minutes to play.

Town now look to make it a fantastic four trophies when they take on Rock Rovers in the final of the Shropshire Challenge Cup at Shrewsbury Town's Green-

Llanfair edge nearer to dreaded drop

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

LLANFAIR United are facing relegation from the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after a 2-1 defeat in their penultimate game at Flint Town United.

Knowing they had to win to keep alive their chances of staying up, Llanfair were unable to stave off a seventh straight defeat that means they will finish in the bottom two.

However, there is still a chance they could escape the drop, depending on whether anyone is promoted from the Welsh Alliance. Leaders Llangefni are the only side to have applied for promotion but are still not certain to finish in the top two.

Llanfair again gave it their best shot against Flint who failed to make the most of their possession before taking the lead through Kyle Smith from a corner right on half time.

Andrew Hughes levelled 37 seconds after the restart when heading in a Jamie Davies cross, but a second goal from Smith 76 condemned the visitors to defeat.

Llanfair's defeat means that Powys rivals Caerwys are certain to stay up with two clubs at the most to go down at the end of the season.

Rhys Stephens' side are at home to Holywell Town on Saturday as they look to give themselves

start in goal, the youngster pulling off a couple of fine saves after coming in for the injured Dave Littleford and unavailable Lee Andrew.

Saturday's fixtures

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Buckley Town v Gresford Athletic, Caernarfon Town v Caersws, Llanfair United v Holywell Town, Rhylader Town v Cefn Druids, Prestatyn Town v Gullsfield.

Gullsfield Reserves continued their excellent run of form in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one when prevailing 3-1 at Caersws reserves – their third victory in a row by that margin.

The visitors suffered an early setback when falling behind in the fourth minute, but gradually got back into the match and levelled on the half hour through Ed Baldwin's header.

They took the lead 10 minutes into the second half when Richard Lewis tapped home after good work by Baldwin, and Lewis then broke through to his second to seal the victory.

Caersws had a couple of good chances late on but keeper Lee Andrew kept the home side at bay.

Llanrhedyn Res notched a 1-0 win over basement club Llanfechain, while Llanymynech are looking good for a top five finish after their 4-1 win at Waterloo Res.

Morda are marching on in cup and league

MORDA United extended their unbeaten run to seven with a solitary Emlyn Williams goal enough to beat second in the table Meifod 1-0 in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one.

Enjoying the best playing surface they have encountered for several weeks, the Weston Road side were looking good as they dominated first half possession.

As Adam Jones headed the post and a goal-bound effort from John Butler was blocked as Meifod defended well. The crucial goal came 10 minutes after the break when Cal Hughes found Emlyn Williams who controlled the ball well before firing home.

Meanwhile, Morda continued their fine cup form with a comfortable 4-0 midweek victory at Llansantffraid in the Montgomeryshire Cup quarter-final.

They pressed from the start but found Rhys Jones impressing in the home goal as the in-form Adam Jones hit the bar from a free kick while George Turner was thwarted by the alert keeper.

But the Weston Road side took the lead within seconds of the second half when Harry Davies fired home from the edge of the box.

A fine move involving Cal Hughes and Davies enabled Adam Jones to hit the second before Turner capitalised on a defensive slip to claim the third.

John Butler capped a superb display in defence when striding forward to fire home after skilfully beating a defender.

Morda's hectic end to the season continues, being due to return to Llanfair in the league last night to face a side they recently beat 4-3 in the cup.

Four-midable Bailey on fire in Saints win

KARL Bailey bagged all four goals as St Martins wrapped up their West Midlands League division one campaign with a 4-1 victory over Bustleholme at Park Hall.

The striker proved too hot to handle after giving the Saints a 25th minute lead from close range.

Keeper Sam Slater had earlier made several good saves to keep the hosts at bay, but he had little chance on the half hour when good interplay down the left saw Josh Sumner find Bailey who smashed a terrific 30-yard volley into the roof of the net to net the advantage.

Two minutes before half time, the forward completed his hat-trick when latching onto another pass from Sumner before producing his second excellent finish with a lob over the keeper. A fourth goal arrived on the hour when rightback Dan Griffiths found Bailey who lobbed the keeper.

However, this seemed to spur Bustleholme who pulled a goal back on 70 minutes.

Tennis men maintain top start to year

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's men's second team continued their winning ways when they played their second fixture in a week at home to Hinckson second team.

The hosts got off to a great start with both pairs of Dave Clough and Nick Elliott and Gilbert Woolley and partner Brett Hollywell winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-2 and 6-0, 6-0.

The reverse rubbers proved to be a slightly tougher challenge with Clough and Elliott needing a second set tie-break to secure the win 6-1, 7-6. Woolley and Hollywell required a deciding third set tie-break to determine the win after taking the first set 6-3.

Despite dropping the second 5-7, Oswestry secured a very satisfying maximum eight point victory.

Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

Llanfair wait and hope for drop reprieve

LLANFAIR UNITED are playing a waiting game to discover whether they win a reprieve from relegation in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

Although they will finish in the bottom two, United may still escape the drop should no club be promoted from the Welsh Alliance.

The only side to apply for promotion from that league are Llangefni. They currently lie second but might miss a top-two spot as leaders Treadradd Bay and third-placed Llandudno Junction both have a game in hand.

Llanfair's hopes of escaping a swift return to the Spar Mid Wales League division one on their own merits were dashed by their 2-1 loss at Flint Town United, their seventh straight defeat.

"I can't knock the lads, they have given everything," said manager Rhys Stephens. "The last couple of weeks we've had a lot of games, and we looked a bit leggy, but we're a much better side now than when we started the season."

"Just a few years ago, most of the boys were playing in division two of the Spar League, and had never played at this level.

"Having tasted the Cymru Alliance this season, we want another crack at it.

"We have shown we are not far away, we have lost 11 or 12 games by the odd goal, and with a bit of luck along the way it may have been different."

"But what will be will be, and if we do go down to the Spar Mid Wales League, then we will look to get back as quickly as possible."

Llanfair host Holywell Town on Saturday as they look to end a tough season on a high note. Their latest reverse was the loss at Flint last weekend which came despite Andrew Hughes heading an equaliser early in the second half.

Meanwhile, a hat-trick by Iwan Matthews was not enough for LLANRHAEDR as they slumped 6-3 at Aberaeron on Bank Holiday Monday.

They now host the same side in their last action of the Spar Mid Wales League division one on Friday, May 13.

Town are looking to a four-midable feat

FC Oswestry Town look to make it four trophies this season when they face Rock Rovers in Saturday's final of the Shropshire Challenge Cup at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhouse Meadow (7.30pm).

Confident Town completed a hat-trick of silverware last weekend by lifting the Mercian Regional League premier division cup with a 5-1 beating of Allscot in the final at Telford's New Bucks Head.

Weeks before, they wrapped up the premier division title and the Commander Ethelston Cup and now have a record-breaking campaign in view.

Town continued their triumphant campaign against an Allscot side that had pushed them for league honours.

Chris Bishop's strike separated the sides in the first half, before the prolific forward scored three more times in the second period to seal victory.

Jack Harris also found the net after Allscot were reduced to 10 men when their keeper was red-carded.

Hat-trick for Town - see page 39

Football Another trophy for super Town – P39

Cricket Morda Road men fall short – P38

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Oswestry aid on the way from Junaid

CRICKET

SOUTH African ace Junaid Cassiem should bolster Oswestry's ranks for Saturday's Birmingham League division two trip to old rivals Stourbridge (noon).

It would be a timely tonic after the Morda Road men suffered an opening day loss when going down by 53 runs at home to Harborne, the team who were relegated with them into the second division last season.

And Oswestry will be hoping that 22-year-old Cassiem can strengthen a batting line-up which has been severely weakened by the absence of

university students Robbie Clarke and Joe Carasco.

Cassiem, who is also a wicketkeeper, made his first-class debut for Boland in the Sunfoil Three-day Cup last October, and has played in every game for his home province since. He bats at seven for Boland, but is likely to be at three or four in the Oswestry order.

It is hoped he will make his debut at Stour-

bridge as the Morda Road men look to get their first win on the board.

Saturday's game saw Oswestry put in a fine stint in the field to restrict the visitors to 217-8 in their 50 overs. But, despite 33 from opener Warwick Fynn in reply, and a stubborn unbeaten 38 by skipper Jonathan Miles, the hosts fell short as they were bowled out for 164.

"We did really well in the field, but we'll have to bat better if we are to make an impact on this division," said Miles. "Hopefully Junaid can do the business for us."

COBRA are now nearer to survival

COBRA moved closer to safety in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north) after basement side Dolgellau failed to take any points from one of their games in hand.

Lying third from bottom, the Meifod now need just one point from their final game to make sure of survival after their relegation rivals lost 33-3 at home to second-placed Pwllheli.

COBRA can still be overtaken, but Dolgellau would need to take maximum points from their last three games – including the one away to the Llanfair Caerenon side which was being played on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, COBRA II will be chasing silverware when they take on Machynlleth in the final of the Cambrian Training Mid Wales Plate at Llanidloes on Saturday, May 28 (1.30pm). Mach walked over in their semi-final after opponents Builth Wells II pulled out.

On the same day, Llanidloes will take on Newtown in the under-14s Mid Wales final (11am) while Llandrindod Wells face Aberystwyth University in the Cambrian Training Mid Wales Cup final (3.30pm).

OSWESTRY, who finished runners-up to Manchester Medics in the Cheshire South, are still waiting to find out who they meet in the promotion play-offs. It is likely to be Southport, who are challenging Ruskin Park for the Merseyside West title.

Despite a 7-5 last-day loss at Warrington outfit Eagle, Oswestry coach Gareth Barrett hopes his side can go up.

"We may find that a losing bonus point from a 7-5 defeat proves to be extremely rewarding when it comes to the venue for the play-off," he said.

"The discipline the team displayed in very provoking circumstances speaks volumes of their character."

"What was really pleasing was the display of our young colts, their mature attitude was simply first-class."

More batting woe as Pool crumble

WELSHPOOL'S batsmen will look to get back on track at Wheaton Ashton on Saturday in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division two.

Pool's early batting woes continued with a 10-run defeat in a low scoring affair with Tibberton at Maesdyre.

Afted being dismissed the previous week for just 82 by Bishop's Castle, the Mid Wales men looked to have turned the tables after skittling Tibbo for 62.

Keiran Evans finished with 5-49 and Tom Anderson 3-7 while Robert Anderson took two wickets without conceding a run. But Pool crashed to 52 all out, 20 extras their top score as Alex Smith took 5-13 and Ashley Cartwright 5-31.

A five-wicket blast from Daniel Brown helped GUILDFIELD continue their encouraging start to division four with a seven-wicket win over Beacon III.

Brown finished with 5-12 and Rob Owen and Jacob Lloyd both collected two wickets as their Shrewsbury opponents were skittled for 71.

Brown then hit an unbeaten 38 to see Guilsfield home. They go to Allscot III on Saturday.



Sealed with a kiss – The News Saints final goalscorers Scott Quigley and Ryan Brobbel

"We'll enjoy the success – but we're hungry to win more trophies. We want to win a game and we'll be looking to make it a treble treble next season. Before that, we've got a few weeks off, and then we can look forward to the Champions League," said Harrison.

"TNS are now in the history books for ever. It's our biggest achievement as it has not been done before, and ends any debate that we are now the most successful club to have played in the league.

Footage

"We've already started preparing for that by looking at some footage of possible opponents, and we'll be hoping to strengthen the squad."

The Welsh Cup triumph completed another terrific season that also saw TNS retain the Word League Cup as well as the Welsh Premier crown.

Harrison admitted his triumphant side were not at their best in the first half of the final before goals from Ryan Brobbel and Scott Quigley clinched the two-goal victory.

"I thought it was a poor first half, quite scrappy, and you've got to give Airbus some credit for stopping us playing the way we wanted," he said.

"But we managed to score from a set play which was pleasing as it was something we worked on, although we probably didn't deserve to be ahead at half-time.

In the second half I thought we got better and better, moved the ball well and showed our class. We could have scored three or four more on the break, should have had a penalty, and definitely deserved to win."

There was another award for Harrison who was named Welsh Premier manager of the month for April in which his side secured their 10th Welsh Premier title, and fifth in a row.

During that month, they won 2-0 against Bala Town to seal the crown, while they finished the campaign with a 5-1 away win at Llandudno with Adrian Cieslewicz bagging a hat-trick. On top of that, the club progressed to the Welsh Cup final with a 5-0 hammering of gap Connah's Quay 5-0 in which Quigley netted a hat-trick.

Highly-rated Queens Park Rangers youngster Tom Matthews had become the first summer signing for treble winners The New Saints.

The defender, who joined Rangers from Nor-

wich City in 2014, was the club's under-18s captain last season before becoming a regular in the under-21s. The 19-year-old is regarded as a promising prospect and can play in a number of defensive positions.

■ ■ ■

Striker Emily Ridge reached her half-century of goals with a hat-trick as The New Saints Ladies completed a triumphant campaign in the West Midlands League premier division with a 7-0 victory at Kingshurst Sporting Ladies.

The Saints, who had already secured the title, also saw Charlotte Canlett, Sophie Davies, Stacey Garnham and Sara Bengtsson net.

TNS Ladies were playing their final game of the season on Thursday night (7pm), taking on Shrewsbury Town Ladies in the final of the Shropshire Cup at the Greenhouse Meadow.

Meanwhile, Charlotte Budd netted four times as TNS Ladies under-16s ran out 4-1 winners against Nunnerwood Colts.

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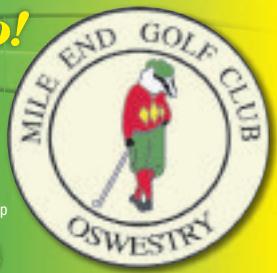
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